



Together Finding
Global Solutions for
Global Problems

UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK
22-23 AUGUST 2018



— THE 67TH —
UN DPI / NGO
C O N F E R E N C E

FINAL REPORT

67th Annual United Nations
Department of Public Information/
Non-Governmental Organizations Conference

United Nations Headquarters, New York
22-23 August 2018

WE THE PEOPLES....
Together Finding
Global Solutions for Global Problems



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Global Solutions for
Global Problems

Organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information
in partnership with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee

FINAL REPORT



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Statement of Alison Smale

Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference Report

The United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI)/Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Conference has a long history, dating back almost to the establishment of the Organization itself. This history attests to the commitment of Member States and of the Secretariat to engaging meaningfully with civil society. As we adapt to the changing times and the competing priorities that our mandate lays before us, we must also take account of the perception of the effectiveness and usefulness of the UN to those around the world whom it is meant to serve, the peoples themselves.

This year we, and our civil society co-hosts, the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, felt it was appropriate and indeed crucially necessary to face head-on the skepticism about the value of multilateralism that we have seen in some countries, and to explore what the UN can do to better live up to the promise of its Charter. The title of the conference, “We the Peoples...Together Finding Global Solutions for Global Problems,” expressed the



Ms. Alison Smale, answers questions at the Press Conference announcing the 2019 Conference that took place directly following the conclusion of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference.

Photo courtesy of UN Photo.

desire of the Secretary-General to “re-assert the value of multilateralism” and his strong conviction that “only global solutions can address global problems.”

Together with civil society, we offered a platform for discussion and networking and sharing of ideas and best practices among NGO representatives, entrepreneurs, private sector companies, UN experts, and others. The result is an outcome document in which civil society offers a newly coined term, “people-centered multilateralism,” to steer the United Nations, Member States, the private sector and themselves on a path that will help us truly leave no one behind. A cross-generational approach to planning led to very strong participation of youth, and their own declaration was also adopted by acclamation during the closing session.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Chair, Ms. Winnie Byanyima, who offered her leadership with dynamism and grace, and to the co-hosts, the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, in addition to all those NGO representatives who served on the planning committee and sub-committees.

I would also, of course, like to thank my own NGO Relations team who worked tirelessly to ensure a successful conference in a short time frame.

Next year we will head to Salt Lake City, Utah, for a breath of fresh air, ideas and encounters. We are grateful to the city and to Mayor Ms. Jackie Biskupski for extending a warm invitation to come.

See you in Salt Lake City!

Alison Smale
Under-Secretary-General
for Global Communications
United Nations



Statement of Winnie Byanyima

Conference Chair & Executive Director, Oxfam International
67th UN DPI/NGO Conference Report

It was my great pleasure to serve as the Chair of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference at UN Headquarters in August 2018. The conference could not have been more timely. Our planet is roasting. Our global economy is increasing the divide between the rich and poor. Young people are too often unheard, unemployed, and face an uncertain future. Women still do not enjoy the power and rights to which they are entitled. All around us, the safety and rights of active citizens are under threat. And the international system that was founded to ensure shared security and prosperity is itself failing to achieve its promise and has come under attack by a new wave of authoritarian nationalists.

I could not be more grateful that some 1,037 NGO delegates devoted their time to come together as “we, the peoples” to defend the notion of a rights-and rules-based international order. Through six roundtable sessions, we explored obstacles to our collective efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and the global governance solutions we need to overcome these obstacles. Forty-two workshops demonstrated the unending contributions that we in civil society are making to Agenda 2030. The youth representatives at the conference, who adopted a Youth Declaration and hosted an inspiring youth hub, reminded us that the so-called “leaders of tomorrow” are already leading today.



Ms. Winnie Byanyima, Chair of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference and Executive Director of Oxfam International, speaks at the Opening Plenary Session.

Photo courtesy of DPI/NGO Relations.



I am most proud that we adopted by acclamation a “Call to Action” to achieve a people-centered multilateralism. In so doing, we affirmed that a rules-based international system is necessary to advance the global agenda. We also affirmed that, in order for the multilateral system to survive, it must adapt to the realities of the 21st century and stand up for the world’s most vulnerable people. In short, in order for we, as friends of multilateralism, to defend it, we must reimagine it and demand far-reaching reform. The Outcome Document drafting committee performed a phenomenal service for civil society through its work, and I owe particular thanks to Rev. Brian Muzas of Seton Hall University and Steve Chiu of the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation for their tireless efforts to build consensus around this remarkable document.

None of our endeavors at the 67th Conference would have been possible without the boundless energy and organization of the members of the Conference Planning Committee, ably led by Bruce Knotts and Hawa Diallo, and the UN Department of Public Information and NGO/DPI Executive Committee as our co-hosts. Under-Secretary-General Alison Smale, the entire DPI NGO Relations team, and the many at DPI who contributed countless hours to make this conference a success, deserve enormous credit.

The challenges we face are enormous, but so is our power to bring about change, however much work lies in front of us. We must, however, always take time to celebrate our achievements and agree on our common agenda for the future. On these counts, the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference was a resounding success, and I am immensely proud to serve as its Chair. I have the utmost confidence that the 68th Conference in Salt Lake City will pick up right where we have left off.

Winnie Byanyima,
Chair, 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference
Executive Director, Oxfam International



Statement of Hawa Diallo

Co-Chair, 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference Planning Committee
67th UN DPI/NGO Conference Report

It is with great pleasure that we present the final conference report of the 67th United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI)/Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Conference, entitled “We the Peoples...Together Finding Global Solutions for Global Problems,” held on 22 and 23 August 2018. The core principal of this conference was the affirmation by civil society of the value of multilateralism and multinational cooperation, in the face of rising skepticism worldwide regarding the United Nations and its mission. The conference culminated with the adoption of a conference outcome document package that includes “People-Centered Multilateralism: A Call to Action” and “We the Future: A Youth Declaration.” The conference included participation from high levels of the United Nations, including the Vice President of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly, a Co-Facilitator for the Global Compact on Migration and a video message from the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth.

A major highlight from this conference is the continued rise and inclusion of youth voices. An obvious example of this was the Youth Hub, a dedicated space for youth events in the Visitor’s Lobby of the UN General Assembly building, where the youth representatives planned events, with topics ranging from “Bridging the Generation



Ms. Hawa Diallo, Co-chair of the 67th UN DPI NGO Conference Planning Committee and Chief of the UN NGO Relations Unit addresses the Opening Plenary Session. She served as the Emcee for the session. *Photo courtesy of ©2018 Rob Quarles – All Rights Reserved*

Gap” to the “Role of Underrepresented Sectors in NGO Work.” All of this culminated in the second-ever Youth Declaration, a document detailing the vision, commitments and recommendations by the youth at the conference for a more sustainable world. Youth continue to be an important and innovative contributor to the discussions at our events, and this conference saw the largest youth participation ever with many powerful discussions regarding youth issues and youth-focused solutions.

With a limited amount of planning time for this conference, NGO representatives and United Nations colleagues contributed countless hours and offered their unique expertise throughout the planning process. We are truly grateful for the tremendous amount of time and energy committed to making this conference a success by so many volunteers.

I would like to express my gratitude and admiration to Ms. Winnie Byanyima, Conference Chair and Executive Director at Oxfam International. Ms. Byanyima’s work and dedication make her truly inspirational and the perfect figure to represent this year’s conference.

I am also extremely grateful to our conference co-hosts, the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, my fellow Conference Co-Chair, Bruce Knotts, the DPI/NGO Youth Representatives and Steering Committee, and our United Nations sister Agencies and Programmes. Lastly, our deepest gratitude goes to civil society whose representatives were the heart and soul of the conference and whose work is the reason we have a conference at all.

Hawa Diallo

Co-Chair, 67th UN DPI/NGO
Conference Planning Committee
and Chief, NGO Relations Unit, UN DPI



Statement of Bruce Knotts

Co-Chair, 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference Planning Committee
67th UN DPI/NGO Conference Report

I was very fortunate to be entrusted to co-chair the planning committee for the 67th UN NGO/DPI Conference, “We the Peoples...Together Finding Global Solutions for Global Problems.” I am grateful for the many volunteers, interns and staff who worked tirelessly to make this conference a spectacular success. My thanks go to conference sub-committee chairs and members who worked so hard to make this conference such a clarion call for people-centered action for multilateralism to solve the planet’s problems. My special thanks go my conference planning co-chair, Hawa Diallo, and to the NGO/DPI Executive Committee; the DPI conference planning staff, led by Mr. Maher Nasser, Mr. Ramu Damodaran, Mr. Jeffrey A. Brez and Ms. Hawa Diallo.

For this conference to achieve its goal of people-centered multilateralism, the conference has ended with a New York Declaration which addresses the false promises of nationalism and populism, which eschew multilateral approaches to global problems. Global cooperation can only address these global problems. These global problems include climate change, the global migration crisis, poverty, access to clean drinking water and sanitation, the need for disarmament and global peace, income inequality, rules which guarantee free and fair trade and much more. Vital for the success in dealing



Mr. Bruce Knotts Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, addresses the Opening Plenary Session.

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with global problems is equality for all regardless of gender, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnic background, etc. Special attention needs to be paid to the most vulnerable to ensure their equal access to opportunities.

We are living in stressful times. We've known about climate change for over 50 years, and we knew how to stop it, and we did nothing. We can no longer afford such mistakes. A major polluting nation pulled out of both the Kyoto Protocols and the Paris Climate Accords because it wanted a better deal. The trouble is that when it comes to global problems, we are all in the same boat. Climate change affects us all, and the deal is global, not national. Climate change is a root cause for global migration that affects us all. Countries can close borders, but global migration will affect us all no matter where the migrants go. Nuclear war has never been closer to reality than it is now. With planetary problems, we need global solutions. No one nation can solve these problems. No group of nations can solve these problems. It will take all of us, working together. We must also work to make sure that this New York Declaration is a living document which will continue to promote global collaboration. We must address global poverty, climate change, ensure peace and justice and more. This can only be done with the cooperation of us all. We cannot afford tribalism or divisions. We are all one race, the human race. As such we must protect all life on this planet, and we must protect the life-sustaining properties of this planet, our only home. The best convener of such global action is the United Nations and its agencies. We need to adequately fund the United Nations and ensure it retains the ability and strength to play its role in protecting human rights, peace and sustainable development.

Bruce Knotts

Co-Chair, 67th DPI/NGO
Conference Planning Committee
Chair, NGO/DPI Executive Committee



CONCEPT NOTE



Together Finding
Global Solutions for
Global Problems



Concept Note 67th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference

“We the Peoples... Together Finding Global Solutions for Global Problems”

22-23 August 2018, UN Headquarters, New York

‘We the Peoples’...with this simple introduction, the United Nations Charter lays out an ambitious and noble mandate. The impetus for creating such an Organization came from an understanding, after two world wars, that a global framework for working together was essential to avoid a repeat of the catastrophic suffering. Yet today, skepticism is rising worldwide about the value of multilateralism, and the United Nations faces the challenge of remaining relevant and effective. Secretary-General António Guterres recognized this when he took office, declaring: “We need to re-assert the value of multilateralism; only global solutions can address global problems.”

This conference is an opportunity to discuss concrete ways to take the UN’s people-centered mandate forward, in closer partnership with civil society. The re-positioned UN development system will offer a platform for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to work more effectively with the UN to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — and to communicate and advocate for it.

Accordingly, this conference, co-hosted by the UN Department of Public Information and the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, will:

- Assess how the UN, Member States and NGOs, among others, are relaying and enacting the 2030 Agenda
- Identify platforms, approaches and technologies for NGOs to transmit the 2030 Agenda
- Explore how to tackle global perceptions regarding the UN’s accomplishments and failures that have shaped attitudes toward the values the Organization represents



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- A concise outcome document will be drafted by civil society and presented at the closing plenary for adoption.

Thematic Roundtables

- Women and Girls Mobilizing
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70
- Doing the Math: A Repositioned UN Development System
- Youth: Today's Leaders
- Shared Planet Shared Prosperity
- Toward UN-75: Communicating the Case for Multilateralism

OVERVIEW OF THE 67TH UN DPI/NGO CONFERENCE



Together Finding Global Solutions for Global Problems

UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK
22-23 AUGUST 2018



THE 67TH
UN DPI / NGO
CONFERENCE

Registration at the NGO Resource Centre

- ▶ Monday, 20 August, 15:00 - 17:00
- ▶ Wednesday, 22 August, 07:15 - 14:30
- ▶ Thursday, 23 August, 07:15 - 12:00

Youth Events

- ▶ Youth Declaration Townhall, Monday, 15:00 - 17:00
- ▶ Youth Hub Caucus, Wednesday & Thursday, 08:30 - 09:45
- ▶ Youth Hub, Wednesday & Thursday, 10:00 - 18:00
- ▶ Youth Film Series, Wednesday, 18:30 - 20:30

Dag Hammarskjöld Library Training

- ▶ Wednesday, 22 August, 13:00 - 15:00
- ▶ Thursday, 23 August, 13:00 - 15:00

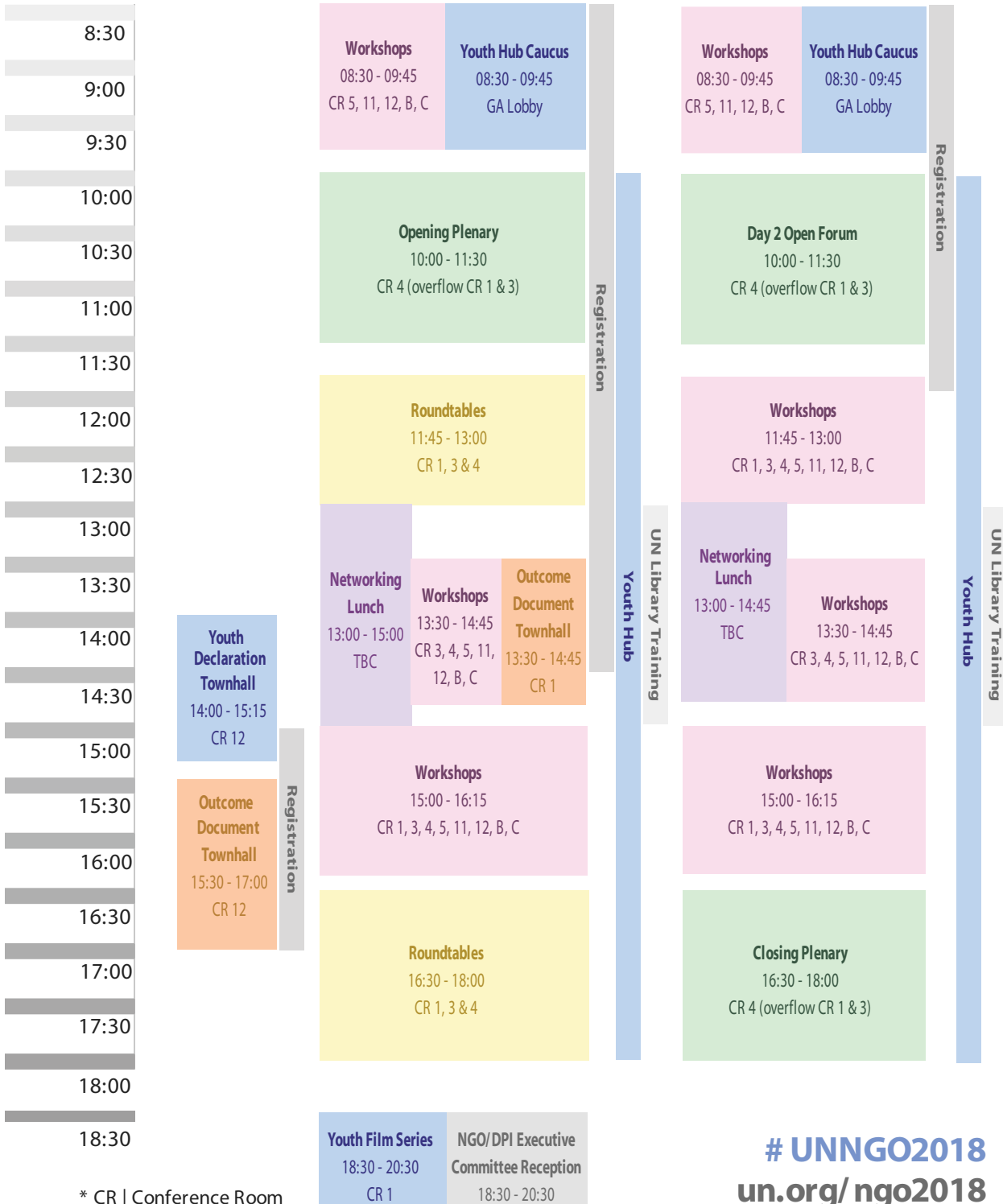
NGO/DPI Reception at Tuttles Bar and Grill

- ▶ Wednesday, 22 August, 18:30 - 20:30

Monday,
20 August 2018

Wednesday,
22 August 2018

Thursday,
23 August 2018



* CR | Conference Room

UNNGO2018
un.org/ngo2018



Conference Programme

Wednesday, 22 August 2018

- Workshops** 08:30 – 09:45
- Youth Hub Caucus** 08:30 – 09:45
- Opening Plenary** 10:00 – 11:30
- Roundtables** 11:45 – 13:00
- Dag Hammarskjold Library Training** 13:00 – 15:00
- Networking Lunch** 13:00 – 15:00
- Workshops** 13:30 – 14:45
- Outcome Document Townhall** 13:30 – 14:45
- Workshops** 15:00 – 16:15
- Roundtables** 16:30 – 18:00

Thursday, 23 August 2018

- Workshops** 08:30 – 09:45
- Youth Hub Caucus** 08:30 – 09:45
- Day 2 Open Forum** 10:00 – 11:30
- Workshops** 11:45 – 13:00
- Dag Hammarskjold Library Training** 13:00 – 15:00
- Networking Lunch** 13:00 – 14:45
- Workshops** 13:30 – 14:45
- Workshops** 15:00 – 16:15
- Closing Plenary** 16:30 – 18:00



OPENING SESSION

Wednesday, 22 August 2018

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Conference Room 4

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Welcome

Ms. Alison Smale, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications

Mr. Bruce Knotts, Chair, NGO/DPI Executive Committee

Ms. Madison Ross, Co-Chair, 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference Youth Sub-Committee

Ms. Shermin Luo, Co-Chair, 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference Youth Sub-Committee

Ms. Penny Abeywardena, Commissioner for International Affairs, New York City

Ms. Winnie Byanyima, Chair of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference

Performance

Ms. Yafrieci Peralta, Spoken Word Performance – “No Poverty in Unity”

High-Level Remarks

H.E. Mrs. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, Vice President, Office of the President of the General Assembly & Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Juan José Ignacio Gómez Camacho, Co-Facilitator for the Global Compact on Migration & Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations

Mr. Elliot Harris, Assistant-Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist

Performance

Ms. Mijori Goodwin, “Someday We’ll All Be Free”

Civil Society Remarks

Ms. Elizabeth Cousens, Deputy CEO, UN Foundation

Mr. Nyle DiMarco, Deaf Activist, Model and Actor

Ms. Kehkashan Basu, Youth Ambassador, World Future Council

Ms. Hunter Lovins, Founder, Natural Capitalism Solutions

Keynote Address

Ms. Winnie Byanyima, Chair of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference

End



Conference Participants in conference room 4 for the Opening Plenary Session of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference. *Photo courtesy of DPI/NGO Relations.*





Summary of the Opening Plenary Session

The session opened with a video tribute to former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. The video featured images from Mr. Annan’s time as Secretary-General and included quotes from the current Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres. “He never stopped working to give life to the values of the United Nations Charter,” Mr. Guterres said. “His legacy will remain a true inspiration for all of us.” The session featured 13 speakers and two performances.

In her welcoming remarks to begin the session, **Ms. Alison Smale**, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, began by reflecting on the



[Ms. Alison Smale, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, addresses the crowd at the Opening Plenary Session at the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference.](#)

Photo courtesy ©2018 Rob Quarles – All Rights Reserved

legacy of Kofi Annan, noting his commitment to inclusion. She mentioned that we are at the service of the people of the world and that the aim for this gathering was to identify solutions to global problems together. Her address focused on the necessity of including all populations and achieving results. She particularly focused on the need to include youth in decisions and achieve gender parity. She highlighted the UN’s gender parity in senior appointments and the role that youth played in the planning of this conference. However, she also acknowledged the decreasing support for multilateralism in some parts of the world and the struggle to deliver on the UN’s mandate. She stressed the need for stronger multilateralism to find global solutions and leave no one behind.

Mr. Bruce Knotts, Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, emphasized in his welcoming remarks the global problems we are facing, particularly climate change, global migration, and nuclear war, and the need for global solutions. In particular, he argued for the importance of global citizenship education and reminded attendees that the UN is a “home” for everyone and open to all people free of charge.

Ms. Madison Ross, Co-Chair of the UN DPI/NGO Conference Youth Sub-Committee and Youth Representative of Mercado Global to DPI, spoke about the importance

of recognizing underestimated, marginalized populations, such as youth and African-American women, as equal team players for achieving multilateralism and the SDGs. She also reminded the audience about the Youth Film series occurring that night.

Ms. Shermin Luo, Co-Chair of the UN DPI/NGO Conference Youth Sub-Committee and Youth Representative of the Global Youth Initiative to DPI, spoke about the importance of creating platforms for youth to lead and contribute to global solutions now, rather than expecting youth to follow today and lead tomorrow.

Ms. Penny Abeywardena, New York City’s Commissioner for International Affairs, welcomed the attendees to New York City on behalf of Mayor Bill de Blasio. She spoke about the relevance of this year’s theme at a time when the world is facing challenges that transcend national boundaries and major powers are abdicating responsibility for solving them. She then spoke about the crucial role of cities in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals — cities, she said, are where the majority of the world’s population lives, and their residents can provide local perspectives on global policy issues. She also highlighted steps that New York City has taken to achieve the SDGs, including being the first city in the world to submit a voluntary local review to the UN and inaugurating the New York City Junior Ambassadors program, which aims to educate and involve youth in the UN and empower them to translate their experiences into community action. She closed by stating that New York City looks forward to continued work to achieve the SDGs in the future.

Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, was unable to attend the conference, but she sent a welcoming video message commending the heightened inclusion of youth in this year’s conference, especially in light of last year’s event, “Intergenerational Dialogues on the SDGs,” and its recognition of the need for intergenerational partnerships.

Ms. Winnie Byanyima, Chair of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference and Executive Director of Oxfam International, welcomed the attendees and commended their fight against injustice and poverty. She emphasized the need to work together and to learn from mutual struggles and successes in order to find global solutions for global problems. She condemned those who insist upon unilateral solutions and advocated for finding local solutions to these problems by working toward a path of equality informed



Ms. Madison Ross, Co-chair of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference Youth Sub-Committee, addresses the Opening Plenary Session.

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View of Conference Room 4 during the Opening Plenary Session of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference. *Photo courtesy of DPI/NGO Relations*

by the voices of ordinary people. This work, she stated, means that NGOs must push against governments and other powers, when necessary, and refuse to be relegated to the role of cheerleaders of government. While acknowledging that NGOs focus on different problems, she also noted that there are many challenges they share, including increasingly extreme politics and governments' attempts to limit the voice of the people. She paid tribute to the late Kofi Annan and the humility and humanity of his leadership style. Finally, she emphasized the importance of NGOs pushing for justice and peace.

Ms. Yafrieci Peralta of Create 2030 delivered a spoken word performance entitled "No Poverty in Unity."

H.E. Mrs. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, in her capacity as Vice President of the General Assembly, began with a greeting on behalf of the President of the General Assembly and gratitude for the tribute paid to Kofi Annan and the work that the attendees have done in carrying his vision forward. In her address, the Ambassador focused on the opening words of the UN Preamble and the title of this year's conference: "We the Peoples." She stated that the real stakeholders of the UN were people from different walks of life whose everyday realities should be considered. She identified civil society as crucial

communicators of the situation on the ground and argued that civil society participation is essential to meeting the commitments of the UN Charter and the SDGs. She then emphasized the need for global solutions to global challenges, which she argued can be achieved through the General Assembly and through partnerships between civil society and the UN. Finally, she said that civil society needs to support the UN, but it needs to be included before it can do that. In conclusion, she recognized the importance of the conference in achieving multilateralism.

H.E. Mr. Juan José Ignacio Gómez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations and Co-Facilitator for the Global Compact on Migration, had three central points in his remarks: the necessity of global governance, the need for multilateralism, and the example of the Global Compact on Migration. He also spoke about the changing viewpoints of the international system and the UN. In the past, he argued, nations viewed international politics as a zero-sum game, but as challenges have increasingly become global, nations have increasingly realized that only by helping other nations to create prosperity can they increase the prosperity and quality of life within their own nation. Because of this, cooperation—and the building of global governance to foster cooperation—is not only ethical, but also in each state’s own self-interest. He applauded the UN for becoming more democratic, more transparent and more inclusive. He said that in order to address global challenges and create prosperity, the UN has realized it must include civil society. Civil society serves as a communication channel between the UN and the people, explaining the UN’s work to ordinary people and, in turn, expressing to the UN the needs of the people. He then used the Global Compact on Migration to emphasize the global nature of the problems and opportunities that the world is now facing—and he stressed the need to design globally agreed-upon instruments to address them. While governments make the ultimate decisions on policy, he argued that NGOs and other stakeholders, such as corporations, are necessary to ensure these policies reflect real needs and result in real solutions. In concluding, he recognized the essential role civil society plays in improving prosperity and reducing inequality.



H.E. Mr. Juan José Ignacio Gómez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, speaks at the Opening Plenary Session.

Photo courtesy of Mr. Isaac Humphrie



Mr. Elliott Harris, Assistant-Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, started by recognizing the challenges the world is facing today are intrinsically linked and, therefore, require integrated solutions. He argued that the 2030 Agenda involves a wide range of civil society actors, and the implementation of these goals creates opportunity for partnerships. He also urged NGOs to participate in the forums for the voluntary national reports and to submit their own reports if necessary. He identified three aspects of the goals that provide a strong basis for engagement: inclusivity, accountability, and inter-linkage. In order to achieve the goals, the expertise of all is necessary, and this requires helping first those who are furthest behind. He also identified challenges that arise from these aspects, including the differing expectations of stakeholders and the impact interventions in one area have on others. He argued that this requires actors to accept and support the priorities of others, while ensuring interventions are demand-driven, accountable, cohesive, effective and efficient.

Ms. Mijori Goodwin of Create 2030 gave a vocal performance of “Someday We’ll All Be Free.”

Ms. Elizabeth Cousens, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the UN Foundation, began her speech with remarks on how the world has changed since the conference’s first meeting in 1947, pointing to the increased urgency and necessity of collective action. She said multilateralism has taken new forms in the 21st century, and she emphasized the need for multilateral cooperation, strengthened institutions with civil actors, and alliances to address threats and the potential dilution of international systems. While the space for civil society has been shrinking and traditional defenders of the UN system withdraw, she said others increasingly support it. Finally, she echoed Kofi Annan in arguing that the challenges of today and the common destiny of humanity require collective action in order to ensure a sustainable future.



Ms. Elizabeth Cousens, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the UN Foundation, speaks during the Opening Plenary Session. *Photo courtesy of ©2018 Rob Quarles – All Rights Reserved*

Mr. Nyle DiMarco, Deaf Activist, Model and Actor, urged the attendees to ensure every vulnerable group has adequate representation so that they can be fully and equally integrated into society. He began by sharing his own experiences of disenfranchisement in the

education system. He emphasized the importance of validating the needs and experiences of people with disabilities and empowering them to shape their societies. He argued that limited access to education leads to limited access to employment, resulting in social exclusion. Young people who are facing exclusion lack a means for employment opportunities. Therefore, he said, our duty as global citizens is to consider the needs of those with disabilities. In conclusion, he condemned the marginalization of people with disabilities and urged greater inclusion.



Mr. Nyle DiMarco, Model, Actor and Deaf Activist, addresses the participants at the Opening Plenary Session.

Photo courtesy of DPI/NGO Relations.

Ms. Kehkashan Basu, Youth Ambassador of the World Future Council, began with some statistics about the plight of children, especially girls, in the world today. She acknowledged that there has been progress since the Millennium Development Goals, but argued that challenges have taken on new dimensions, particularly in the realm of the environment. This has impacted people in new ways, including creating the new status of “climate refugee,” while other parts of the world’s population demonstrate “environmental apathy,” showing little regard for the environment and the impact their behaviors have on it. She argued that the engagement and education of marginalized youth is key to equitable progress, a sustainable future and gainful employment for all.



Ms. Hunter Lovins, Founder of Natural Capitalism Solution, speaks during the Opening Plenary session of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference.

Photo courtesy of DPI/NGO Relations.



profitable, and will solve the climate crisis. If we fail to do so, she said that achieving any of the SDGs is impossible. She said the that incessant recognition of neoliberalism—that markets are perfect, eliminating the need for government intervention—has resulted in inequality and climate problems.

Ms. Winnie Byanyima, Chair of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference and Executive Director of Oxfam International, addressed the conference once again to deliver her keynote address and declare the conference open. She identified the human rights achievements of the past and argued that these achievements must be defended for more rights to be achieved. She identified challenges that the world is facing today—populism, inequality, and toxic nationalism—and argued that the burdens of poverty, inequality, and injustice are borne primarily from those removed from power, particularly women and youth. She condemned unregulated greed and its negative impact on women, communities, workers, and the environment. She criticized governments for stopping protests of this greed, rather than stopping its violations. She argued that, in order to defend the multilateral system, it must be reimagined, so that the rules of global governance are no longer made by a privileged few, but, rather, are more inclusive, more just and more feminist. Otherwise, she said, its credibility and effectiveness will suffer. She commended actions in defense of peace and human rights by various governments but recognized that civil society must sometimes act without government support. She also touched upon the relationship between civil society and the UN, recognizing the irony in the fact that civil society, which is often the UN's harshest critic, must also take up the role of defending, reforming and advancing the UN. In conclusion, she urged continued action on behalf of the human rights of all people.

Rapporteurs for this session: Ms. Kendra Brock and Ms. Ah Young Song

Summary of Roundtable Discussions

ROUNDTABLE 1: Women and Girls Mobilizing

Overview

In his report titled “*Repositioning the UN Development System to Deliver on the 2030 Agenda*,” United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres noted that global investment in gender equality and women’s empowerment remains insufficient.

Today, we are in the midst of an unprecedented global movement for women’s and girls’ rights, equality and safety. How can the unwavering voices of women harmonize their calls to achieve equal opportunities and stronger accountability?

This Roundtable :

- Identified innovative mechanisms to expand access to education and employment for women and girls;
- Outlined the steps to advance the rights of women and girls in preparation for the 25th anniversary of the 1995 World Conference on Women;
- Shared examples of transformational leadership strategies for women across the SDGs
- Assessed the representation of women in key positions and policy discussions and determined the critical systemic changes needed to increase their numbers.

Summary

This session was moderated by **Ms. Lopa Banerjee**, Director, Civil Society Section, UN Women. Panelists included **Mr. Djibril Diallo**, President and CEO, African Renaissance and Diaspora Network; **Ms. Katja Iversen**, President and CEO, Women Deliver; **Ms. Haydee Rodriguez**, Latin American Regional Representative, Governing Council of Huairou Commission; **Ms. Njoki Njehu**, Director, Daughters of Mumbi Global Resource Center; and **Ms. Emele Duituturaga**, Executive Director, Pacific Islands Association of NGOs.

In her opening remarks, **Ms. Lopa Banerjee** acknowledged the magnificent contribution of women’s rights groups, social justice actors, feminist groups and civil society to the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals. Without their support, she said, the 2030 Agenda would not see its fulfillment. “Leave no one behind” is fundamentally about the inclusion of human rights as a governing principle of the agenda, she said. She then shared data reflecting the “rapidly eroding democracy,” as



she described it: more than half of the Member States of the UN have legislation in place to curtail civil society. Additionally, between 2002 and 2018, there has been a fourfold increase in attacks on human rights defenders, with more than 300 human rights defenders murdered last year alone. She concluded that women and girls are mobilizing NOT to move the agenda forward, but for their fundamental rights to live as full and equal human beings in this world. She went on to say that women should hang on to the gains that they have achieved and continue to fight against discrimination. Women and girls are mobilizing, and it is a fundamental right to survive with dignity and justice as human beings. Solidarity and common action can prevail, she said.

“Solidarity and common action can prevail to create the conditions for peace.”

*Ms. Lopa Banerjee,
Director of the Civil Society Section, UN Women*

Ms. Katja Iversen began her speech by sharing that Women Deliver hosts the world’s largest conference on gender equality and that it’s a conference focused on solutions. Women and girls need to focus their energy on how they can come together and make the most effective strides towards equality. They cannot take rights for granted, she said. Ms. Iversen added that she had spent the previous day with the leadership of Procter and Gamble and was impressed with the amount of time that they were investing in women’s and girl’s mobilization. Hearing what the company is doing made her hopeful, she remarked. Women are agents of change, she said, and need to view men as partners in that quest for change. She concluded her opening remarks with a call to civil society to listen, learn and take action. She said that she was not in total agreement with Ms. Banerjee, because she also saw a lot of positive developments, which gave her hope for the future. She urged taking an integrated approach when considering women’s issues and challenged the audience to advocate for women’s safety, visibility, health, education and empowerment. In her view, another area of improvement is data management, and, while more evidence would be needed, she believed that using the data was critical.

In terms of good practice for leadership strategies for the mobilization of women and girls, **Mr. Djibril Diallo** suggested three approaches: making women and young people entry points in all aspects, improving the quality of education, and bringing local authorities, such as mayors, on board. He also insisted the narrative on Africa should be changed, as the image of Africa does not help the mission to achieve gender equality on the continent. He also acknowledged that it would take leadership and conscious efforts to change the narrative. Mr. Diallo shared his idea of highlighting more women leaders, the likes of Ms. Winnie Byanyima, whom he believes is the embodiment of what Africa should strive to achieve.

Ms. Njoki Njehu conveyed the message of the women-on-the-ground: “listen to us,” she said, as she explained how women and girls have their own visions and solutions but go unacknowledged, sometimes even by those who claim to be helping them. She referred to this phenomenon as “kizungi mingi,” a local phrase for “too much English,” which tends to render women voiceless by forcing a foreign agenda or narrative onto them. Instead of being spoken for, those women want to maintain their dignity by telling their own stories. All they ask in return is respect for their experiences. Ms. Njehu also criticized how the current neoliberal agenda concentrates too much on women getting jobs but not enough on the quality of jobs they are getting.

“Listen to us. There are so many people who come these communities and are talking in these big words and big concepts, that describe people’s experiences in a way that they don’t even recognize themselves. They are saying listen to us and if you listen and are communicating properly with us, then we will be able to move forward.”

*Ms. Njoki Njehu,
Director of the Daughters of Mumbi Global Resource Center*

Prior to her speech about the current mobilization of women leadership in the environmental justice agenda in the Pacific Islands, **Ms. Emele Duituturaga** paid tribute to the late Kofi Annan by citing his memorable quotes on gender equality. She explained how the Beijing Conference was the main catalyst for women’s rights from her part of the world as it gave birth to feminist movements in the Pacific. She further elaborated on the intergenerational transformation of the movement and referred to the example of the Pacific Climate Warriors, which gave impetus to the mobilization of a whole generation of young people. Seventy percent of Fiji’s population is 40 years old or younger, she said. According to Ms. Duituturaga, they have been able to effectively weave together the push for women’s rights and the protests of environmental degradation and extractive industries. She also raised concerns about the lowest percentage of women in the Pacific’s parliament, standing at 3 percent as opposed to the world average of 20 percent. Lastly, she emphasized the importance of addressing the underlying paradigms causing inequalities, specifically power structures and patriarchy.

Ms. Haydee Rodriguez began her speech by stating that she was an indigenous farmer who represented 2,447 indigenous women who are members of cooperatives in Nicaragua and are mainly landholders by heritage. The grassroots women have been working on leadership by organizing mobilization campaigns and providing



subsistence to their communities. However, they were far from achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. She then presented the organization's diamond-shaped roadmap toward enriching their skills and knowledge. It consists of four strategies: awareness raising and capacity building; promotion of resilient development; strengthening women's groups and networks; and influencing public decision and policy makers. She also mentioned the Resilience Fund, which supports 30 organizations in 32 countries, enabling grassroots women to position themselves as public leaders in identifying and mitigating risks at the local level. In conclusion, she stated that women want and need to be the implementers of the 2030 Agenda, and she emphasized the importance of platforms and alliances in achieving the SDGs.

Some of the key points raised during the question and answer session were about the power hierarchies that need to break within movements and how one should have accountability for them.

A major conclusion of the panelists was the need to recognize that, in some parts of the world, particularly in remote and rural Africa, tribes hold more power than the government, and culture and religion are the dominant paradigms. The panelists agreed that changing the mindset and breaking the traditional cycle should start with the family, and that women and mothers need to come forward and demand the change. **Ms. Duituturaga** said gender mainstreaming, gender equality and feminism can be unrealistic for some women. This leads to the issue of women-on-the-ground not being represented in policy discussion and solutions. Thus, the need to recreate venues to amplify their voices was one of the key points of discussion. This also paved the way for discussion of changing the narrative of women in general. In that light, **Ms. Njehu** exemplified how her organization, the Fight Inequality Alliance, is working differently — first, by acknowledging that leadership comes from grassroots organizations, and, second, by taking into account the stories told by people with firsthand experiences. In connection with changing the mindset, **Mr. Diallo** suggested sharing inspiring stories that make a difference through social media and local media. **Ms. Iversen** encouraged the audience, in the face of changing gender norms, to collaborate with men, include youth, and tackle powerful institutions or individuals.

In conclusion, **Ms. Banerjee** pointed out that women's movements have been all about questioning power, shifting norms and changing the narrative. She reminded the audience that the Sustainable Development Goals are a transformational agenda and that they require everyone to engage in global development that is inclusive in order to leave no one behind.

Rapporteurs for this session: Ms. Tara Sheth and Ms. Battsetseg Jaavaa

ROUNDTABLE 2: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70

Overview

Strengthening human rights through powerful institutions which are held accountable, by civil society and others, is necessary to achieve Agenda 2030. Growing authoritarianism is threatening civil and political rights. Meanwhile, half the world's poor people are living in fragile and conflict affected countries.

According to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, denials of human rights are both a cause and a consequence of multiple, interrelated fractures that are breaking down our societies, including: conflicts, inequality, deprivation, violent extremism, repression, and discrimination. There is also an increase in efforts to curtail democratic and participatory practices. An example of this trend is increased restrictions on the rights of migrants – including refugees and people displaced by conflict and climate change.

This Roundtable:

- Made the case for a UN development system more strongly centered on human rights and in closer partnership with civil society
- Addressed the strengths and weaknesses of the human rights agenda in conflict settings and its implications for development
- Discussed transnational approaches to address the violation of human rights suffered by vulnerable groups, including on the basis of religion, nationality, or migration status
- Determined how the UN can most effectively support youth-led and other NGO-led initiatives to advance human rights, especially in areas prone to conflict or repression.

Summary

This session was moderated by **Mr. Craig Mokhiber**, Director of the New York Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Panelists included **Ms. Olajobi Makinwa**, Chief of Intergovernmental Relations and Africa for the United Nations Global Compact; **Mr. Roberto Borrero**, International Mechanisms Director at the US Human Rights Network; and **Ms. Antje Kraft**, Justice and Human Rights Policy Specialist, Rule of Law, Justice, Security and Human Rights Team, United Nations Development Programme.

The focus of this roundtable was on strengthening human rights through powerful institutions, which are held accountable by civil society and are necessary to achieving Agenda 2030. The moderator, **Mr. Craig Mokhiber**, started by announcing that this roundtable was about commemorating (not celebrating, given the state of the world) the 70th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights. He added that the UN is a



norm-based organization, built upon the promise that a different world is possible and all of us are born free and equal in dignity and rights. How far along we are with this promise was the focus of the conversation.

We live in an age when healthcare, housing, water and sanitation are all commodities for sale to those who can afford them, he said, but the Human Rights Declaration says that those are human rights to which we are all entitled. We are still struggling against racism, sexism, xenophobia, imperialism, colonialism etc., even after 70 years of the Declaration of Human Rights. When attempting to solve these issues, he said that we must especially consider women and children, indigenous people and people living in poverty. It is important to think of the obligations not just of the state, but of the private sector and of all actors who have the power to make a difference.

The moderator then welcomed the panelists and invited the first speaker, **Mr. Roberto Borrero**, to talk about how experiences of indigenous people have been a part of the struggle for human rights and what principal milestones the indigenous people have achieved. Mr. Borrero gave a brief introduction of his organization, the US Human Rights Network, and its partnership with indigenous people. He said that doors were always closed for indigenous people, from 1920, before the UN was formed, until 2007, when indigenous people were invited into the framework of human rights. Since then, two other mechanisms were established at the UN — Special Rapporteurs on the rights of indigenous people, and expert mechanisms on the rights of indigenous people. In the Paris Agreement for climate change, the rights of indigenous people are highlighted, he said, and recently indigenous people have started to demand a seat at the table. Mr. Borrero said that, although the world is often lacking in the realm of implementation, indigenous people must demand the steady progression of protecting their rights.

The panel then moved on to **Ms. Olajobi Makinwa** to speak about the corresponding level of accountability in the private sector for human rights, how we expand that accountability, and where we are in making that shift in partnership with the United Nations Global Compact (a platform for the private sector to interact with the UN). She said that there is a responsibility for private businesses to protect human rights. To sustain these rights, businesses must also be environmentally-friendly and anti-corrupt. Engaging these actors through the lens of responsibility, as well as emphasizing the principles of human rights across their supply chain, are key, she said. Regarding how to stop blue washing, green washing or pink washing, Ms. Makinwa said that the UN Global Compact asks companies to report their activities on human rights and their work on the 10 principles of the Global Compact. It is in the self-interest of the companies to be respectful of the human rights principles, she observed.

The final speaker of the roundtable was **Ms. Antje Kraft**. The moderator posed to her this question: “The SDGs and the 2030 Agenda is a revolutionary agreement, an inter-governmentally agreed upon development agenda, that is explicitly for human rights, is applicable to all countries and all people, and is totally different from the way development was conceived a few years ago. How is the development process realized?” Ms. Kraft stated that, to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda, which are

broad and all-encompassing, we need strong partnerships and coalitions at the local level, national level, regional level and global level to execute detailed implementation. The UN Development Programme works with the National Planning and Finance teams to reduce the poverty level, along with the Department of Justice and Human Rights. The sophisticated data collection system from the National Statistics team should provide more qualitative and quantitative data related to the SDGs, in order to measure if the SDGs are met by the countries. This data could be the measurement tool for accountability, she remarked.

During the question and answer session, the following points were raised by the audience and panelists: strengthening the regional bodies would help affect the translation of the work of the UN in terms of accountability, and it is the collective responsibility of the country, state and civil society to implement the SDGs.

The roundtable concluded by thanking the Department of Public Information and the rest of the organizing team and emphasizing the need for civil society's participation to ensure SDGs are implemented.

Rapporteur for this session: Ms. Kaarthiga Palanisamy



ROUNDTABLE 3: A Repositioned UN Development System

Overview

With A/RES/72/279, United Nations' Member States welcomed a revitalized, strategic, flexible and results-oriented United Nations Development Assistance Framework, [UNDAF], as the most important instrument for planning and implementation of the United Nations development activities in each country in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This roundtable explored the opportunities this repositioning presented for closer partnership between the UN and civil society across policymaking and programme design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and, crucially, financing. It explored domestic resource mobilization, together with international financial aid and private finance opportunities available to help achieve the SDGs.

This Roundtable:

- Discussed the roles of the United Nations as:
 - » a convener of partnerships and dialogue between civil society, the private sector, and member states
 - » a protector of civil society legal, physical and other spaces and a supporter of social movements for the global good
 - » a forum for Member State and private sector accountability
- Explored the existing and needed commitments around international and domestic resource mobilization, fiscal justice, development and South-South cooperation, along with sound fiscal mechanisms to manage debt problems globally
- Discussed how a repositioned UN system could help rectify policies that have deepened structural inequality and potentially undermined economic, social, and environmental rights
- Explored ways in which the UNDAF could create an enabling environment for local NGO leadership in development and humanitarian programs

Summary

This session was moderated by **Ms. Susan Modares**, United Nations Diplomatic Correspondent and Commentator from the United Nations Correspondents Association. Panelists included **Mr. Humphrey Nabimanya**, Founder of Reach a Hand Uganda; **Mr. Robert Piper**, Head of UN Repositioned Development System Transition Team; **Mr. Mandeep Tiwana**, Chief Programmes Officer, CIVICUS; and **Ms. Rosemary Kalapurakal**, Director, Sustainable Development, Lead Advisor, 2030 Agenda, United Nations Development Programme.

In her opening remarks, **Ms. Susan Modaress** noted the ambitious and transformative activities between civil society and member states which must continue to align and work together cohesively to build an efficient UN development system.

Mr. Robert Piper was the first panelist to speak and discussed the current UN Development System and the large ecosystem of UN agencies, such as a UNICEF (UN Children’s Fund), WFP (World Food Programme), and so on. Mr. Piper noted a lag phase in which many UN agencies were having to catch-up to the Sustainable Development Goals by placing it operationally at the center of their work, while bilaterally encouraging an integrated response by Member States. Likewise, the UN Development System was attempting to catch up to the market, as the successes of both civil society and governments across sectors are making impressive bounds, when compared to benchmarks and achievements of 50 years ago. Mr. Piper reinforced the point that more cohesive work must be done, in order to align goals across a new repositioned development system, and he presented the example of operations in the field surmounting issues such as climate change; yet, currently, no agency has been mapped to address these topics. Mr. Piper underscored that these contemporary topics were being unfairly festooned to a 1950s development architecture. Mr. Robert Piper called for significant changes and proposed giving UNDP resident coordinators “teeth” by increasing new programming tools, as well as greater organization of policy expertise in integrated packages at the national level. He also suggested novel funding mechanisms, and he remarked that the current system did not tailor response to donors but made a broken landscape of UN agencies, often to sectors for which they did not belong or had funding limitations. Mr. Piper noted the untethering of the Resident Coordinator from UNDP to the UN Secretariat, reporting directly to the UN Secretary-General [and the host governments] on the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

“Problems like these don’t have a single solution. The Solutions don’t come from a single sector, the Sustainable Development Goals require integrated solutions.”

Rosemary Kalapurakal, Director of Sustainable Development and Lead Adviser for the 2030 Agenda at the United Nations Development Programme

Ms. Rosemary Kalapurakal opened her remarks with reference to those displaced due to natural disaster in India and underscored the importance of integrated solutions in thematic areas, further reducing siloed responses. Ms. Kalapurakal discussed how UNDP has taken the role of the integrator between different UN agencies, press, and civil societies, and noted various activities, including the Corruption Busters in Nigeria, the Annual SDG Festival in Bonn, and operations by the SDG Action Campaign. She recognized the substantive need for multilateral platforms to integrate efforts and



connect infrastructures to facilitate UN agencies, programmes, the private sector and civil society.

Mr. Mandeep Tiwana began his discussion by underscoring the importance of transparency and accountability from Member States and civil society. He raised concerns of shrinking safety nets and state resources while millionaires were filling the seats of governments, and he reiterated the need for Resident Coordinators to have more authority on the ground. He offered operational introspection by debating social guarantees that might translate into persecution for vulnerable populations, and he questioned whether programme beneficiaries or stakeholders were upholding virtuous positions and being models of the UN system. Mr. Tiwana called for societies to have the moral courage to stand against immorality and to expose various collusions between political power, and he advocated for increased transparency within the United Nations to ensure that the economic wealth alone would not bankroll the UN Agenda.

Mr. Humphrey Nabimanya reinforced the concerns and contentions made by Mr. Tiwana and underscored youth participation in civil society, and he called for the UN to work together to develop integrated solutions. Previously, Mr. Nabimanya recognized the various silos between the different agencies and inventively pooled resources from the agencies for a youth agenda. With this insight, he reiterated how innovation was important, as new models became explored, with novel platforms to bring agencies together to develop integrated solutions. Mr. Nabimanya reinforced profound concern for the youth and suggested that youth become the center of development and to concentrate less upon what they might be losing out and more on safeguarding their transition into the future.

During the question and answer portion, many key points were raised along the theme of repositioning the archaic form of development and how to adapt the outmoded architecture to the contemporary world. Various questions were raised positioning human rights, and human rights abuses were of heavy concern for transparency and accountability. Other topics included the fabrication of a singular portal to increase funding for the UN. These raised conversations regarding the fiscal concerns of the UN and UN agencies, while underscoring that the UN could solicit funds, and that civil society must solicit and funnel money into the UN. Other queries were direct and personal, such as insight for young female scientists interested in meaningfully participating in sustainable development. It was reinforced that civil society had high expectations for not only the UN, but for everyone, and it was also noted that information and technology was changing the landscape of information.

Rapporteur for this session: Mr. Mark J. Johnson

ROUNDTABLE 4: Youth, Today's Leaders

Overview

Half of the world's 7.6 billion people are under the age of 30. Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals were created based on the assumption that "Youth are the future of sustainable development." Their needs and challenges, however, are often not adequately addressed on regional, national or global levels. To remedy this situation, the UN is committed to working with and for young people, to uphold their rights by methods including promoting structured mechanisms for youth participation.

At the same time, youth are widely recognized as having an equal place among the leaders of today. Youth are leading groundbreaking social movements to build peace, combat climate change, control small arms, advance gender justice, and achieve other public policy goals integral to the SDGs.

This Roundtable:

- Shared innovative youth campaigns on issues in which they are uniquely positioned stakeholders;
- Provided examples of how youth bring vitality to advocacy for the Sustainable Development Goals, through youth-led organizations; use of new media tools; and information and communication technologies; and
- Explored ways in which broader civil society should seek to support, connect to, and adopt best practices of youth-led social movements.

Summary

This session was moderated by **Mr. Dejan Bojanic**, Vice President of the European Youth Forum. The Panelists included **Mr. Prince Gideon Olanrewaju**, Founder and CEO at Aid for Rural Education Access Initiative; **Mr. Kamran Elahian**, Founder and Chairman for Global Innovation Catalyst LLC; **Ms. Toya Montoya**, Model and Social Entrepreneur; **Ms. Alexandria Bramel**, Partnership Manager at JeeFoods; and **Ms. Nancy A. Henkin**, Senior Fellow at Generations United.

The moderator, **Mr. Dejan Bojanic**, opened the roundtable discussion stating that the UN approaches young people for different reasons, such as development, security, human resources and peace. The youth are considered the "torch bearers" for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, he said, and although there are challenges in involving the younger generation, there is also limitless potential. We need to see how to overcome these challenges.

Ms. Toya Montoya began her remarks by sharing the cultural and historical heritage of her country of Colombia, whose biodiversity is preserved through education, collaboration and the intercultural work of young indigenous people. She then mentioned





Ms. Toya Montoya, Model and Social Entrepreneur, speaks during Roundtable 4: Youth, Today's Leaders.
Photo courtesy of DPI NGO Relations.

what she focuses on currently, which includes empowering young personnel, using interculturality to understand problems and finding innovative solutions to problems. She said, “A future without nature is not future at all,” and added that young leaders need to be empowered through education. Young leaders should use interculturality and should be collaborative in finding solutions, she said.

Mr. Prince Gideon Olanrewaju stated that the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals is the “pie in the sky.” These roundtable sessions should enable youth voices to be heard, he said, because there is a need for more developmental activities and opportunities to empower skills in young people. He said young people’s passions can be translated into impact by connecting with others within and outside of formal structures and by receiving funding and mentorship. There is an important need to collaborate between young people and today’s decision makers. There should be more support and funding for youth organizations, he said, and stated that “anything designed for us without us is against us.”

Ms. Alexandria Bramel began her remarks with a focus on SDG1, No Poverty, and SDG2, Zero Hunger. A high school student herself, she promotes the SDGs among her

peers. She said the students use social media to better understand the UN’s initiative and spread its message. When she spoke to other students, she realized they were not familiar with the SDGs, but they were fast learners – an advantage of being young, she said. Finally, she advocated that responsible youth leadership is the way to build a more sustainable future.

“I believe these opportunities – encouraging international teamwork and communication to solve global problems – these are the opportunities that our youth need to solve the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Ms. Alexandria Bramel, Partnership Manager at JeeFoods

Mr. Kamran Elahian, being a successful entrepreneur from Silicon Valley, said that he valued young people and their innovative and creative minds. Now with new technology, we do not need the old channels of distribution, he said, as we live in a world of high-tech entrepreneurship. With creative ideas like Uber, we can create new and successful business models. The future is dependent upon young people, he said, and current business models involve disruption as a method of creating new businesses. He added that Stanford University has created 5-minute videos for the younger generation to learn about entrepreneurship and how to build a sustainable future on their own. He stated, “with money comes power, and with power comes change.” He put forth nicely the pyramid of change in this world: we started with manual processes, then came the mechanical innovation, after which came electronic innovation, then the electro-magnetic innovations, followed by the “software model” and finally the “algorithmic model.”

Ms. Nancy A. Henkin, from Generations United, spoke about the importance of the contributions of older people to society. She said that the younger generation is the future of the world, and the older generation is interested in helping achieve their lofty goals. She thinks it would be beneficial for two generations to work together in the name of progress. It should not be a case of “do as you are told,” but it should be an equal partnership.

During the question and answer portion of the roundtable, the panel suggested the following points. Key to ensuring the younger generation does not lose passion in the SDGs is placing an emphasis on collaboration. Younger generations should look through an intergenerational lens to solve issues. Leadership is always about the process, not about individuals. Finally, multigenerational interaction is necessary.

Rapporteurs for this session: Ms. Kaarthiga Palanisamy and Ms. Ah Young Song



ROUNDTABLE 5: Shared Planet, Shared Prosperity

Overview

Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals balance the three pillars of development: social; economic; and, environmental — and acknowledge their interdependence. Shared prosperity can emerge more robustly through a mindset of entrepreneurial stewardship, where people and nature are valued based upon cultural knowledge systems; science; and a shared commitment to sustainability, social justice, and human rights.

Practices defined by a circular economy, climate mitigation and resiliency, water and food security, green cities and a variety of other economic and other cultural innovations can permit significant improvements in quality of life without compromising the prosperity of future generations.

This Roundtable:

- Discussed the links between inequality and sustainable natural resource use;
- Explored progress made to date, and further institutional and cultural changes necessary to achieve a paradigm shift towards environmental sustainability;
- Proposed what the UN system and other developmental institutions can do to help give greater voice to representatives of the most vulnerable communities.

Summary

This session was moderated by **Mr. Maher Nasser**, Director, Outreach Division, DPI. Panelists included **Ms. Hunter Lovins**, President and Founder, Natural Capitalism Solutions; **Mr. Seongbae Lim**, Professor, St. Mary's University; **Ms. Devopriya Dutta**, Youth Representative, Tarumitra; and **Mx. Sean Estelle**, National Network Coordinator, Powershift.

In his opening remarks, **Mr. Maher Nasser** recognized that climate change is happening secondary to human actions. However, Mr. Nasser noted that the world infrequently sees a unanimous response or opinion among politicians. He said that people are now ahead of the politicians on the topic of climate change, and he stressed the monumental lag between policymakers and citizens. Mr. Nasser contended that 82% of the world's wealth is owned by 1% of the planet, and that inequality is also present with waste, specifically how and where we dispose of it. Mr. Nasser noted floating trash islands within the Indian ocean and how an integrated response to climate change is compulsory. He offered simple solutions, such as limiting participation in purchasing and using plastic water bottles.

**“When we say Shared Planet, Shared Prosperity,
we should also extend it to shared responsibility.”**

*Mr. Maher Nasser, Director of the Outreach Division,
Department of Public Information*

Ms. Hunter Lovins discussed the current, needed steps to shift and reinvent the global economy through justice and corporate transparency. She said that justice, parsed, is “just us,” and that we are all stakeholders of climate change. She made a call to action for all persons to become resonant actors in their local economy and noted that it is in a company’s best interest to participate in good, ethical business for the globe. However, she said, many multinational corporations still lack the insight, fortitude or political will to execute sound corporate policies that edify the planet first, and not the stockholder. Ms. Hunter reinforced the concept of becoming regenerative and called to set aside the notion of traditional capitalism, where the objectives are to create more life, more capacity and capital. Ms. Lovins declared that climate change is “on me” and that all stakeholders need to take a similar position and take action. Ms. Lovins noted that beyond any particular action, what is more important is a commitment to act and to sustain such action.

The moderator, **Mr. Maher Nasser**, further noted that we are facing such climate change consequences resulting from our collective reliance on fossil fuels and our myopic focus upon short-term gains, without austere consideration of long-term impacts on the environment.

Mr. Seongbae Lim called for significant changes and proposed various solutions from the tech sectors. Mr. Lim recognized the efficiencies and increased quality of life that can be achieved through technology, from automation to digitization. He further underscored the importance of technology when considering labor replacement rates and job loss as opportunity costs. He commented that solutions that do not kill job opportunities must be explored and developed. Mr. Lim cited various case studies, including facial recognition software developed by Facebook. He said it is the stakeholders and beneficiaries that make Facebook “smarter.” Mr. Lim made the contention that there are technologies that must still be developed, such as artificial wombs to save children and livestock. However, he said that there must always be consideration on how this technology will impact the environment and economic ecosystem. Mr. Lim decried technology that only drives productivity and reduces job opportunities. He posited, “Ask not what innovation can do for your organization, but ask what you can do for innovation to enable it to make the world a better place.” Mr. Lim concluded by saying the technology sector, in conjunction with civil society, needs to build integrated, multilateral approaches to access and waste, solving the great divide between those with internet connection and those who lack it.





Mr. Seongbae Lim (on left), Professor at St. Mary's University, speaks during Roundtable 5: Shared Planet, Shared Responsibility at the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference.

Photo courtesy of DPI NGO Relations.

**“Ask not what innovation can do for your organization,
but ask what you can do for innovation to enable it to
make the world a better place.”**

Mr. Seongbae Lim, Professor, St. Mary's University

Ms. Devopriya Dutta delivered a compelling presentation, recalling how, in her community, she integrated beneficiaries as stakeholders in various modalities and throughout local agricultural operations. Ms. Dutta spoke about biodiversity and how religion and spirituality is integral in her community, sustained during the threshing, harvest and monsoon periods. She said students, and all young people, are the present, not just the future. She commented that involving them in sustainable practices now will produce adults with the same belief systems, either by habit or conviction. Ms. Dutta incorporated encouraged all young people to practice ecological sensitivity and to view everyone, including the Earth, as family.

Mx. Sean Estelle spoke about synergy as it relates to over 80 organizations founded along the principles of social and environmental justice, fundamental rule of law, and corporate governance as it relates to the SDGs. Mx. Estelle, an advocate of earth justice, as well incarcerated persons, noted many human rights concerns along those thematic sectors. Mx. Estelle underscored the importance of advocacy in attaining justice and transparency, speaking at length about the distribution of energy and power with social

and political powers. Mx. Estelle’s organization positioned itself to build safe and healthy communities for all, through these principles and through enhanced advocacy.

During the question and answer session, many key points were raised along the theme of the changing planet and how technology and a shared approach, alongside personal and corporate responsibility, is vital in remediation and accountability. Ms. Dutta reiterated how schools and organizations frequently want various certification for green energy and thereby undergo “green audits,” which could be scaled for multinational corporations. Ms. Lovins called for a democratization of finance and suggested bonds for cities that become sanctuary cities—those which foster social justice movements such as “Black Lives Matter.” She also proposed rigorous screenings of corporations and encouraged the elimination of fossil fuels. Finally, Mr. Lim said emerging technologies, such as blockchain, can secure and efficiently move money and harness power for those previously unable to participate in the economy.

Rapporteur for this session: Mr. Mark J. Johnson



ROUNDTABLE 6: Towards UN-75 — Making the Case for Multilateralism

Overview

‘We the Peoples’... with this simple introduction, the United Nations Charter lays out an ambitious and noble mandate. The impetus for creating such an Organization came from an understanding, after two world wars, that a global framework for working together was essential to avoid a repeat of the catastrophic suffering. Yet today, skepticism is rising worldwide about the value of multilateralism and the United Nations faces the challenge of remaining relevant and effective. Secretary-General António Guterres recognized this when he took office, declaring: “We need to re-assert the value of multilateralism; only global solutions can address global problems.”

This Roundtable:

- Discussed the current role and future potential of the UN to deliver on its mandate of peace and security, human rights and sustainable development given key global challenges and mega-trends including migration, natural resource depletion and climate change and increasing inequalities
- Explored how closer partnership with civil society can enable a more people-centered multilateralism with the UN to advance global goals
- Explored how to effectively communicate the value of multilateralism to stakeholders including governments, civil society and the private sector, to re-build robust support for it.

Summary

Mr. Jeff Brez, Chief, NGO Relations, Advocacy & Special Events moderated the session. The panelists included **H.E. Ambassador Park Chull-Joo**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations; **Ms. Laura Lindenfeld**, Director, Alda Centre for Communications; **Mr. William Pace**, Executive Director, World Federalist Movement; **Mr. Henry MacDonald**, President, World Development Foundation; and **Ms. Natalie Samarasinghe**, Executive Director, UNA-UK.

In his opening remarks, **Mr. Jeff Brez** said this was one of the core roundtables of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference, as it served to address the worldwide skepticism and challenges that surround multilateralism. The attendees need to reassert the significance of multilateralism, he said, as is stated in the Conference Concept Note and Outcome Document. In this session, the main topics of discussion were the value of multilateralism and how to communicate that value to the rest of the world.

H.E. Ambassador Park Chull-Joo recognized the UN as a useful forum for finding global solutions and in finding multilateral approaches. In his speech, the Ambassador

made three main points. First, he acknowledged the UN has been successfully representing multilateralism, although it has its limits. Second, he said the UN must further promote private/public partnership as the main mode of implementing multilateralism with global stakeholders. Third, he made clear the UN should work more directly with people with disabilities and women and girls' refugees, not just the member states. He suggested that the UN have a more people-centered approach, reiterating the UN preamble and the name of the conference: "We the peoples." Finally, he stressed the importance of the Republic of Korea's commitment to multilateralism, to protecting human rights, and to achieving peace, security, and development around the world.

Mr. William Pace noted that World War II was the creation of the United Nations and that the UN Charter has been the foundation of international legal order for the last 73 years. He agreed with many experts that the UN was instrumental in stopping a third World War from happening. Mr. Pace called for all national and regional stakeholders capable of addressing global problems to be included in the international legal order. He said the small- and middle-power democracies led this enormous achievement in peace and human rights architecture. He urged conference participants to join in the UN's 75th anniversary celebrations. He said the 50th anniversary served as a catalyst for multilateral initiatives under the leadership of civil society and small and middle states. He expressed hope that the 75th anniversary could serve as a time for serious stocktaking and re-evaluation of the UN and its mission.

Ms. Laura Lindenfeld began by asking the question, "What does communication actually mean?" The most pressing problems, she said, are created through communication, but it is only through communication that they can be resolved. She went on to address the issues of partnerships and the complexities of scientific improvisation. She said that her organization's work does not center around turning people into actors but helps them to be present and focused. She said that there are two rules of improvisation which guide empathic communication. The first is always say, "yes and..." The second is always make your partner look good. Scientists must better communicate regarding topics, such as climate change, by helping them understand empathy and theories of the mind. She could not imagine effective multilateralism that was not people-centered, and she said that we must spend more time listening, than speaking, about the problems that people face.

Ms. Natalie Samarasinghe argued that there has been a change in attitudes towards the UN, using the United Kingdom as an example: in the past, people viewed the UN as irrelevant, but, as the UN system begins to show signs of strain, people have begun to recognize how much the UN system isolated people from the fallout of multilateral problems. Multilateralism is increasingly important, she said, as people realize their employment depends upon conditions in other nations. She also stated that multilateralism is important for big states, especially status-quo powers, as the system maintains their power despite changes in the global landscape. It is ultimately about moving the multilateral system from state-based to non-state-based actors, she stated, and there is a consensus that these actors will deliver the Paris Agreement. The UN must

give these actors a greater chance to deliver on the global stage, she said, and to find meaningful ways to integrate them into global government roles.

“There is some consensus in regards to these non-state actors being the ones who can deliver on this agenda but the United Nations is still rather state-centric in how it approaches things and in its decision-making. We need to find meaningful ways to incorporate these actors.”

Ms. Natalie Samarasinghe, Executive Director of UNA-UK

Mr. Henry MacDonald began his remarks by stating that small states have a proud record at the UN of making a difference as peacekeepers. Multilateralism continues to be the diplomatic lifeline for these small states, he said, and there would be no international criminal court without the initiative of these states. Mr. MacDonald said violence against women and girls is the biggest human rights violation and he spoke about several movements attempting to solve this problem. From a human rights perspective, the most important goal is to eliminate poverty completely, he said. A people-centered approach means it is not just about governments anymore — governments have a duty to talk to civil society. He argued that a unilateral and divided world ultimately results in losses for all and that safety and development can only be secured through multilateral diplomacy.

The moderator, Mr. Brez, then asked panelists to talk about the meaning of people-centered multilateralism, as the title of the Conference Outcome Document was “People-Centered Multilateralism: A Call to Action.” Ms. Samarasinghe spoke about multilateralism in terms of global partnership, moving away from state-centrism and toward a model that meaningfully integrates other actors by giving them more formal roles in global governance. Mr. Brez echoed this by reiterating the three foci of the conference: defining multilateralism, showing why multilateralism is valuable, and moving toward greater partnership between the UN system and civil society. Ambassador Park said that he believed that his country would find people-centered multilateralism particularly appealing because it dovetails with the current president’s people-centered approach. He also emphasized the importance of including people of all backgrounds, especially persons with disabilities, in the discussion. Mr. MacDonald focused on the importance of the individual, noting two important aspects of the outcome document—human rights and sustainable development — are ultimately about people. Mr. MacDonald also spoke about how multilateralism is no longer simply between governments — it requires all of society to be “on board.” These sentiments were echoed by Ms. Lindenfield, who said that it is impossible to achieve multilateralism without people. Mr. Pace argued that a

move toward multilateralism may also necessitate a change in communication forms, since people increasingly communicate through media, rather than words. He also commented that the involvement of NGOs and people is crucial to achieve progress.

Questions from the audience focused on the desire to see substantive strategies and action regarding the inclusion of other players, including business and media. One question asked about current initiatives demonstrating the power of small states to achieve initiatives. Mr. MacDonald used climate change, and Mr. Pace used the International Criminal Court and the UN Security Council Code of Conduct as concrete examples of small-state initiatives. Ambassador Park and Ms. Samarasinghe both emphasized that change happens gradually, with Ambassador Park pointing out that the different national interests of Member States make it difficult to find easy solutions. In other words, the UN serves as a forum in which problems are raised, while the problems themselves must be solved by national governments. Ms. Samarasinghe echoed this sentiment, saying the UN serves as a convener and setter of norms, but is not necessarily the solution to every problem. Mr. MacDonald emphasized the value of public-private partnerships in achieving the SDGs, while Mr. Pace argued that there is little participation by businesses in SDG work and with the UN system, in particular because it is not a large enough market.

Further questions focused on the role of power in defining civil society participation in multilateralism. Ambassador Park and Mr. Pace said that the shrinking space for NGO participation is the fault of the Member States. Ambassador Park said that the large numbers of Member States who do support NGO participation must continue to encourage relevant NGO participation. In response to the argument that state-centric funding of the UN undergirds the state-centric nature of the UN system, Mr. Pace urged taxation on international transactions for the UN system, in addition to voluntary funding. Ms. Samarasinghe said participation in discussions, as well as dates such as the UN's 75th anniversary, can give civil society leverage to influence discussions. Ms. Samarasinghe also posited that a dedicated office or official for NGOs might further increase the status of NGOs in the UN system. Finally, in response to a participant who argued that NGOs have an obligation to see the Charter treated seriously, Mr. Pace expanded upon the role of the Cold War in undermining the Charter, and Ms. Samarasinghe emphasized that many NGOs are overwhelmed by their present work and would need greater support in order to play the role of defending the UN System.

Rapporteurs for this session: Ms. Tara Sheth and Ms. Kendra Brock





Photo courtesy of DPI NGO Relations



Photo courtesy of UN Photo/Loey Felipe



DAY 2 OPEN FORUM

Day 2 Open Forum — 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference

Thursday, 23 August 2018

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Conference Room 4

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Part 1: Why Act Now, Together?

Ms. Winnie Byanyima, Chair of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference & Executive Director of Oxfam International

Mr. Maher Nasser, Director, Outreach Division, United Nations Department of Public Information

Ms. Fatma Nilufer Cagatay, Professor, University of Utah

Mr. A. Haroon Akram-Lodhi, Professor, Trent University

Part 2: Solutions for SDG Advocacy and Action

“Human Rights at the Center of the SDGs: Leave No One Behind”

Ms. Peggy Hicks, Director of Civic Engagement, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr. Peter Micek, Global Counsel, Access Now

“Mobile Technologies, Cell Phone Providers and Civil Society: Connecting People to Prosperity”

Ms. Hilary Kemp, Strategic Product Manager, Big Data for Social Good Programme, GSMA Foundation

Mr. Manuel García-Herranz, Chief Scientist, Office of Innovation, UNICEF

“How an Entertainment Company and a Global Ad Agency Found Inspiration in Sustainable Development”

Ms. Miyabi Haneda, Director of Corporate Communications, Yoshimoto Kogyo

Ms. Reiko Kunieda, Director and Communication Planner, Dentsu

Ms. Kaoru Nemoto, Director, UN Information Center Tokyo

“Leading a Wave of Universities to Contribute to Agenda 2030”

Mr. Dominic Shellard, Vice-Chancellor, De Montfort University

Mr. Daniel Bewley, Student of Economics and Politics, De Montfort University

Ms. Aneesah Latkan, Student of Law, De Montfort University

“Unleashing the Power of Entrepreneurs to Achieve the SDGs”

Mr. Dave Smith, Creative Partnerships, Unreasonable Goals of the Unreasonable Group

Mr. Ian Rosenberger, Founder & CEO, Thread

End



PART 1

PART 1:

Why Act Now, Together?

This session was moderated by **Ms. Winnie Byanyima**, Chair of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference and Executive Director Oxfam International Director. Panelists included **Mr. Maher Nasser**, Director of the Outreach Division, DPI; **Ms. Fatma Nilufer Cagatay**, Professor of Economics at the University of Utah; and **Mr. A. Haroon Akram-Lodhi**, Professor, Trent University, Canada.

In her opening remarks, **Ms. Winnie Byanyima** emphasized a focus on solutions, urging the panel to address the reasons why we must work together to try and solve problems through multilateralism and how to move forward in new ways. She addressed the fact that inequality is more extreme than ever before. She noted that in this economy, a billionaire is produced every two days — at the same time, one out of every nine people in the world go to bed hungry. She spoke to the 200 million migrants who have something strong to offer the economy but who are often not given opportunities. She then called upon civil society to address some of these injustices. Only 4% of humans can say they live in open societies and in 153 countries around the world there are laws that discriminate against women in the economy. In 18 countries—nations that meet in the United Nations—a man can legally stop his wife from working. This, she noted, is a crisis for humanity, and these injustices cannot exist. She invited the panelists to frame these global issues and discuss how to move people-centered multilateralism forward and envision a better multilateralism system that fills the inequality gaps, especially gender inequality.

Mr. Maher Nasser expressed his sense of optimism, noting there have always been crises. Because of the UN, he noted the rise in agreements, which allow individuals to come together to address and solve problems. He addressed the general rise in distrust of governments and alluded to the need for civil society to step in and come together to further reduce the rate of poverty, which was reduced from 43% upon the creation of the UN to 11% when the SDGs were adopted in 2015. The UN is a testament of hope to this continuing, he said. When asked to reimagine a system where multilateralism is achieved, Mr. Nasser commented on populism: there has always been populism and nationalists, but what is new is that we have a platform—social media and the internet—where people who were once isolated in a small community now have a large global megaphone. Youth is more native to these technologies and he urged both women and youth not to wait to be invited, but to open their own doors. “Don’t wait to be invited, you have to knock on the door, you have to break in the door and ask and demand and have a seat at the table,” he said. This is the first year the Secretary-General’s office achieved gender parity on its staff, so he noted that progress is being made, but complacency is the worst enemy of any progress. Relating to a vision of a global system that is just, fair, and that gives solutions to the problems that are still there—such as economic and gender inequality. Mr. Nasser noted the world is different now than it was in the past when the UN was created: cities, local governments, and enterprises play a larger role than ever



before. He noted that five companies in the US make up the entire GDP of Africa. This calls for a restructuring of the solution and a greater involvement of the private sector, he said. He concluded by emphasizing the involvement of different stakeholders such as universities and cities in the advocacy and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and mentioned New York City as being one of the cities that reflected the SDGs in its plan.

Ms. Fatma Nilufer Cagatay mentioned what we are experiencing is a sort of reconstitution—a new order that is not very clear, filled with proxy wars and conflict. As a result, millions of people are becoming refugees and migrants, putting multilateralism at risk. This kind of inequality stems from neoliberal macroeconomic policies beginning in 1980. They are taking the form of the Washington Consensus, imposed on countries of the Global South. These are policies that lead to enormous inequalities between countries of the North and within themselves. More recently, austerity policies in Europe have ushered in right-wing policies, leaving people feeling disenfranchised. She addressed the decrease in power of unions, along with the disappearing of the middle class in advanced capitalist countries. As a result, this makes politicians more susceptible to blame migrants and refugees who are then labeled as trading “unfairly” in the global economy, contributing to trade wars. Ms. Nilufer Cagatay said women perform 52% of the combined paid and unpaid work in the global economy, but they remain at the bottom. However, she said more men than ever before are committed to gender equality. Since more resource are needed to fight poverty and gender equality, Ms. Nilufer Cagatay outlined the benefits of a basic income and the need for global taxation. Neoliberal systems have caused inequality, and as such, local, national and global taxation is necessary. She advocated for a global fund for women and an end to gender inequality, carbon taxation, and Special Drawing Rights.

Mr. A. Haroon Akram-Lodhi mentioned the lack of awareness of historical parallels. We are living through a crisis of globalization, but it is not the first of its kind. The first, 90 years ago in the 1920s and ‘30s, carried many similarities: a financial crisis, jobless economic growth, disenfranchisement, an ecological crisis (then the Dust Bowl) contributed to the rise of national populism—with leaders seeking to use existential crises to mobilize support. We are living in a period of great transitions; however, we are not sure what we are transitioning to. China is operating under a different economic logic than before. There is a retreat of democratic values around the world. There is a climate crisis, which he urged the world to do something about. He called for a change in the framework—a Mother Earth that embraces us all equally. Mr. Akram-Lodhi said women, who run the household, bear the brunt of the labor. We live in a model addicted to men being the breadwinners; jobless growth is paired with a crisis to masculinity. He alluded to the way society encourages, and expects, women to continuously do very traditional tasks. Mr. Akram-Lodhi said the ultimate goal is a world where everyone has enough. He pointed out that the world already has enough for everyone, but the problem is distribution. We need to think of mechanisms that benefit the people who are doing the work but not sharing the prosperity. He urged for a universal social protection floor and said funding could come from two sources: cutting (not eliminating) military spending to level of one’s neighbors and eliminating subsidies on gasoline. He notes that others have called this: “Guns, Gasoline, and Giveaways.” He concluded by expressing that he sees social protection as the future and the goal of the multilateral system.



PART 2:

Solutions for SDG Advocacy and Action

In the second part of the Open Forum, a series of five case studies were introduced and discussed to showcase the platforms, approaches and technologies for NGOs to effectively advocate for the 2030 Agenda. These sessions highlighted creative and substantive partnerships that strongly support the Sustainable Development Goals. The first three sessions were moderated by **Mr. Jeff Brez**, Chief, NGO Relations, Advocacy and Special Events, UN Department of Public Information, and the last two were moderated by **Ms. Tolu Olubunmi**, Advisor, UN Department Public Information.

“Human Rights at the Center of the Sustainable Development Goals: *Leave No One Behind*”

This session was moderated by **Mr. Jeff Brez**, Chief, NGO Relations Advocacy and Special Events, DPI. Panelists included **Ms. Peggy Hicks**, Director of Civic Engagement, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; and **Mr. Peter Micek**, Global Counsel, Access Now .

In his opening remarks, **Mr. Jeff Brez** talked about the focus of this panel on people, entities, and companies that are focusing on the SDGs and innovative usages of technologies for the SDGs.

Ms. Peggy Hicks responded to the impact the SDGs are having as a new framework that encourages consistent learning. It is a way to encourage a conversation and to interject human rights at every level of that conversation, she said, and technology has quickly become a fundamental way to incorporate the SDGs. She gave a concrete example of impact in Kenya, where her office connected the regional statistical offices with human rights institutions by facilitating a series of meetings. This led to a mutual understanding of who might be left behind and culminated in a cooperation agreement. Lastly, she discussed how organizations like Access Now are helping to tackle the challenges in the digital space by providing training and support.

Mr. Peter Micek spoke to the ability of technology to surface isolated communities. Technology is built to connect struggles across borders, he said, and governments have come to discover the power of using technology on a larger scale. Access Now thinks this use of technology may be doing more harm than good, as national programs often compromise legal identities without consent. Lastly, he introduced Access Now’s 24/7 Digital Security Helpline, which operates in nine languages and provides technical guidance to human rights defenders and civil society actors on the ground.

“Innovative Uses of Mobile Technology and Partnerships: Big Data for Social Good”

This session was moderated by **Mr. Jeff Brez**, Chief, NGO Relations Advocacy and Special Events, DPI. Panelists included **Ms. Hilary Kemp**, Strategic Product Manager, Big Data for Social Good Programme, GSMA Foundation; and **Mr. Manuel García-Herranz**, Chief Scientist Office of Innovation, UNICEF

Ms. Hilary Kemp addressed GSMA’s representation of the world’s mobile operators, which includes over 800 operators and companies across the globe. Established with the vision of “connecting everyone and everything to a better future,” GSMA linked its goals to the SDGs as it strived towards more tangible and measurable results. Big Data can be used for social good, Ms. Kemp said, by generating the day-to-day activities of people via their cell phones and using that data—location, movement patterns, etc.—in ethically responsible ways. For example, how do people move when they are displaced? Or, how can we track air pollution in Sao Paolo? This is done in partnership with Telefonica, the largest phone operator in the area, which has been doing a study with the municipal authorities to try to understand the link between pollution and people’s movements. They have been using this data to proactively manage short-term predictions of pollution to minimize traffic flow and the impact on people’s health.

Mr. Manuel García-Herranz alluded to the UN as a highly data-driven institution. He noted that a high geographical understanding, paired with weather forecasting, is key to combating global problems. Data is complementary to filling in necessary gaps. Mr. García-Herranz said countries need to think about success differently, starting with algorithmic equity and research on behalf of lesser-developed countries.

“How an Entertainment Company and a Global Ad Agency Found Inspiration in Sustainable Development”

This session was moderated by **Mr. Jeff Brez**, Chief, NGO Relations Advocacy and Special Events, DPI. Panelists included **Ms. Miyabi Haneda**, Director of Corporate Communications, Yoshimoto Kogyo; **Ms. Reiko Kunieda**, Director & Communication Planner, Dentsu; and **Ms. Kaoru Nemoto**, Director, UN Information Center Tokyo (UNDPI)

Ms. Miyabi Haneda introduced Yoshimoto Kogyo, the Japanese entertainment company with a 106-year history and discussed how the SDGs fit into its business plan. She said her company uses comedians like Naomi Watanabe to inform people about the value of the SDGs. For example, Yoshimoto Kogyo organized a red carpet in April 2017 for the International Movie Festival in Japan. Comedians walked the red carpet with the 17 SDGs and the 330,000 participants were encouraged to collect stamps of their favorite comedians, learning about the SDGs along the way. An exhibition of photography and artistry showcased a unique portrayal of the 17 goals, using the power of entertainment to educate.

Ms. Reiko Kunieda worked on creating SDG-focused video clips to promote in Japan and overseas. Her team conducted market research with 1,400 respondents in Japan to



understand the awareness and interest in the SDGs. The study found that less than 15% of people in Japan know about the SDGs; however, the empathy level for the SDGs was about 70%. When asked why she should invest in the SDGs, Ms. Kunieda emphasized the multilayered benefits for employers, consumers, and the company.

Ms. Kaoru Nemoto reached out to Yoshimoto Kogyo, successfully putting the SDGs on people’s radar by galvanizing the entertainment industry and garnering its support. She said DPI’s philosophy of promoting the SDGs in Japan was based on the notion that the SDGs are not just for the UN or member states—they are for the people.

“Leading a Wave of Universities to Contribute to Agenda 2030”

This session was moderated by **Ms. Tolu Olubunmi**, Advisor, UN Department of Public Information. Panelists included **Mr. Dominic Shellard**, Vice-Chancellor, De Montfort University; **Mr. Daniel Bewley**, Student of Economics and Politics, De Montfort University; and **Ms. Aneesah Latkan**, Student of Law, De Montfort University.

When asked how academic institutions can become a true hub for the SDGs, **Mr. Dominic Shellard** said that schools need to focus on doing what is right over doing what is easy. At De Montfort University, the SDGs are the framework for all academic activities. After school, dinner clubs meet to provide meals for the homeless, and the students are working with groups in India—formerly known as untouchables, such as people diagnosed with leprosy— to teach them to dance, help with literacy, and assist in the reduction of hearing deficiencies. Mr. Shellard challenged universities to be less talk and more action. Young people need to be empowered, he said, not just by supporting but by leading. He commended Nelson Mandela in his discourse, who encouraged people



Mr. Jeffrey Brez, Ms. Hilary Kemp, and Mr. Manuel García-Herranz speak during the Day 2 Open Forum at the 67th UN DPI NGO Conference. *Photo courtesy of DPI NGO Relations*

not just to live but to inspire. He brought five hundred students to the UN to establish a plan that is currently being worked into the university's fabric. To date, a joint network of 57 universities from 33 countries have been created, and the UN honored De Montfort University as a global hub for SDG 16—Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions—when asked about the importance of interconnectedness between peace and sustainable development. He emphasized the importance of democracy through voting practices, so that the voters feel they can be part of something bigger.

Mr. Daniel Bewley emphasized his passion for SDG 16—Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions—when asked about the importance of interconnectedness between peace and sustainable development. He emphasized the importance of democracy through voting practices, so that the voters feel they can be part of something bigger.

Ms. Aneesah Latkan emphasized her passion for SDG 14—Life Below Water—by running a successful campaign that resulted in De Montfort University giving reusable water bottles to all students.

“Unleashing the Power of Entrepreneurs to Achieve the SDGs”

This session was moderated by **Ms. Tolu Olubunmi**, Advisor, UN Department of Public Information. Panelists included **Mr. Dave Smith**, Creative Partnerships, Unreasonable Goals of the Unreasonable Group; and **Mr. Ian Rosenberger**, Founder & CEO, Thread.

Mr. Dave Smith said it is the job of entrepreneurs to identify unattractive problems and find market-based solutions. They are the ones who forge unlikely partnerships with large businesses and connect through a common framework and language. The SDGs, for example, are one common framework. Mr. Smith aims to work with companies



Ms. Aneesah Latkan speaks about her projects involving Sustainable Development Goal 14 at the Day 2 Open Forum of the 67th UN DPI NGO Conference.

to provide scalable solutions without sacrificing impact in exchange for profit. For this reason, he emphasized the need for more entrepreneurs.

Mr. Ian Rosenberger found the inspiration for his company after spending time in Haiti. He realized that he could reduce poverty by using the waste that was so pervasive in the country. He specifically saw an entrepreneurial opportunity: creating a backpack made of plastic bottles, ridding waste while creating jobs. Weaving social and environmental value into its business model, the company now has a network of 2,000 employees in and around Port-au-Prince. Mr. Rosenberger pays twice the minimum wage and has been selling products made entirely of plastic garbage to large corporations, namely Timberland, Reebok, and Marmot. He ended the session by sharing his personal view that access to jobs is the immunization to poverty.

Rapporteurs for this session: Ms. Earlene Cruz and Ms. Battsetseg Jaavaa

List of Workshops

WEDNESDAY, 22 AUGUST

Workshop Timeslot: 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO AND THE SDGS — SHARED PLANET, SHARED PROSPERITY

Sponsor: Institute for Multicultural Communications, Cooperation and Development Inc.

Co-Sponsors: The Institute of Multicultural Communications, Cooperation and Development Inc.; i4SD, Infrastructure for Sustainable Development; John Jay College of Criminal Justice

EDUCATION AND DEMOCRACY

Sponsor: Fundación Cultural Baur

Co-Sponsors: Colegio Carol Baur

PEACE-WALKING: ‘TRANSFORMING OURSELVES TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

Sponsor: Global Center for Human Change

TOWARDS UN2020: THE CASE FOR STRENGTHENING MULTILATERALISM

Sponsor: CIVICUS

Co-Sponsors: World Federalist Movement — Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP); The Workable World Trust; CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation; The Stimson Center; Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York (FES-NY); United Nations Association UK (UNA-UK); NGO Committee on Sustainable Development NY



Workshop Timeslot: 13:30 – 14:45 p.m.

MANY FAITHS; ONE BELIEF

Sponsor: Latter-day Saint Charities

CONNECTION IS A CHOICE – WAYS TO MAKE SURE YOUR ORGANIZATION IS HEARD!

ENHANCE YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS TO HELP IMPLEMENT THE SDG'S

Sponsor: NGO/DPI Executive Committee

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION – STARTING FROM RESPECTING CULTURAL DIFFERENCES AND ADHERING TO ONE'S CONSCIENCE

Sponsor: Association of World Citizens

Co-Sponsors: Global Future Network; Federation of World Peace and Love

WATER: KEY TO PROSPERITY FOR ALL HUMANITY

Sponsor: Lehigh University

Co-Sponsors: The Barbuda Council, Nation of Antigua & Barbuda; Engineers without Borders; Colgate Palmolive

EMPOWERING YOUTH ACTION FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS

Sponsor: UN Foundation

FIREWORKS: SAVING THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN – A CIVIL SOCIETY'S INITIATIVE

Sponsor: Corporación De Ayuda Al Niño Quemado

Workshop Timeslot: 15:00 – 16:15 p.m.

ROLE OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IN OVERCOMING CONFLICTS AND CHALLENGES IN SUSTAINABLE PEACE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

Sponsor: Pathways to Peace

Co-Sponsors: URI, Peace Day Philly, UN DPI NGO International Day of Peace, Mater Dei Prep Global Institute, March for Your Lives NY

D IS FOR DEVELOPMENT: HOW SESAME STREET PROMOTES THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Sponsor: Sesame Workshop

EDUCATION FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP: ACHIEVING THE RIGHT TO LEARN THROUGH SDGS QUALITY EDUCATION

Sponsor: Dream Touch for All

Co-Sponsors: AIESEC

EDUCATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT FOR ALL

Sponsor: Kappa Delta Pi (KDP)

Co-Sponsors: Kappa Delta Pi; Public-Private Alliance Foundation; Creative Change Education Solutions; UNA-USA Southern NY State Division

ACHIEVING GLOBAL ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE TREATMENTS: THE ROLE OF NEW TECHNOLOGY, TRADITIONAL AND INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE

Sponsor: World Council of Peoples for the United Nations

Co-Sponsors: Institute for Art and Olfaction; TCMOUN; Puerto Rico Reiki Institute

FINDING SOLUTIONS TO PROMOTE AND DEFEND THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Sponsor: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

THE CENTRAL INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS: NATIONAL ACTION PLANS, LOCALIZATION EFFORTS AND EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION

Sponsor: International Sociological Association

Co-Sponsors: Global Network of Women Peacebuilders; Criminologists Without Borders; Commission on Gender Equity; University of Johannesburg's Department of Sociology





Attendees following the conclusion of the “Achieving Global Access to Healthcare Treatments: the Role of New Technology, Traditional and INtegrative Medicine” workshop.

Photo courtesy of Isaac Humphrie.

NGO Workshops at the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference.



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Photos courtesy of Isaac Humphrie

THURSDAY, 23 AUGUST

Workshop Timeslot: 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

HUMAN RIGHTS AS A KEY ASPECT IN THE 2030 AGENDA

Sponsor: Panamanian Human Rights Council

Co-Sponsors: Fundación Iguales Panama (Iguales Foundation Panama); Comité de Derechos Humanos de Panamá (Panamanian Human Rights Council)

TRANSFORMING VALUES INTO QUANTIFIED, CO-CREATED CULTURES OF PEACE

Sponsor: Kosmos Associates, Nonviolence International

Co-Sponsors: Nonviolence International; Barrett Values Centre; Bridges Global

MUN IN ACTION: YOUTH LEADERS AS PARTNERS TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS

Sponsor: International Model United Nations Association (IMUNA)

Co-Sponsors: Model United Nations Impact, World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)

YOUTH: TODAY'S LEADERS – CHALLENGES OF EMPLOYABILITY

Sponsor: International Federation for Training and Development Organizations (IFTDO)

Co-Sponsors: Mactay Consulting, Nigeria; Construction Industry Vocational Training Council of India



Workshop Timeslot: 11:45 a.m. – 13:00 p.m.

EDUCATING ON GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP THROUGH INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES, SERVICE, AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAMS

Sponsor: The City College of New York

MOBILIZING AND EMPOWERING PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY THROUGH COMMUNITY BASED PARTNERSHIPS AND UTILIZING INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Sponsor: International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers

Co-Sponsors: NGO Committee on Human Rights; Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; ATD Fourth World; National Youth Service Action and Social Development Research Institute

WEAVING TOGETHER: HANDICRAFT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Sponsor: WT Asociación Mujeres Unidas para el Microcrédito

Co-Sponsors: MERAKIU; Centro Artesano de Cartagena; Centro de Innovación de Republica Dominicana

EXPLORING EFFECTIVE MODELS FOR DEVELOPING THE LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL OF THE 21ST CENTURY YOUTH

Sponsor: Strategy for Mentoring Initiative and Leadership Empowerment (S.M.I.L.E)

Co-Sponsors: Agents for Change; Men of Purpose; Journey to Self-Discovery; Develop Africa Inc.; FABE International Foundation

HOW TO USE TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY TO HAVE YOUR VOICES HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

Sponsor: The Peacemaker Corps Association

Co-Sponsors: Man Up Campaign

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPLEMENT THE SDGS

Sponsor: Unitarian Universalist Association United Nations Office

Co-Sponsors: World Development Foundation

EMPOWERING AND ACTIVATING GLOBAL CITIZENS THROUGH LOCAL YOUTH-LED WORKSHOPS

Sponsor: AFS Intercultural Programs

Co-Sponsors: AFS Brazil; Intercultura, Italy



Workshop Timeslot: 13:30 – 14:45 p.m.

SHARED PLANET, SHARED RESPONSIBILITY: SAFEGUARDING OUR COLLECTIVE PROSPERITY THROUGH CLIMATE ACTION

Sponsor: Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation

Co-Sponsors: 350.org; Climate Nexus; US Climate Action Network; Power Shift Network

#JOINTOGETHER NGO SDG WORKSHOP

Sponsor: De Montfort University

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AS A CATALYST FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION: A CASE STUDY OF SIERRA LEONE

Sponsor: Association of Sierra Leone

Co-Sponsors: Association of Sierra Leone; Troy Foundation Sierra Leone; Starlets Sierra Leone

WE THE PEOPLES ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS ENSHRINED IN THE UDHR TO ACHIEVE THE 2030 AGENDA FOR ALL: AN ASSESSMENT OF ADVOCACY & ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE HLPF TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Sponsor: Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation

Co-Sponsors: Hawaii Institute for Human Rights; Association Mondiale pour l'Ecole Instrument de Paix

VIRTUAL REALITY – USING EMPATHY TO CONNECT YOUTH WITH NGOS

Sponsor: Rutgers Preparatory School

YOUTH USING TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS TO TACKLE GLOBAL PROBLEMS THROUGH CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Sponsor: International Association of Applied Psychology

Co-Sponsors: UN Major Group for Children and Youth; Urban Catalyst Lab; Psychology Coalition of NGOs accredited by the UN; World Council for Psychotherapy (WCP)

HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD: USE OF CONTEMPLATIVE DISCIPLINES IN SERVICE OF PEACE, JUSTICE AND HUMAN DIGNITY

Sponsor: Shri Ram Chandra Mission

Co-Sponsors: International Federation of Women in Legal Careers; Brahma Kumaris, World Spiritual University; Committee on International Day of Yoga at the United Nations; Heartfulness Institute; Adizes Institute



Workshop Timeslot: 15:00 – 16:15 p.m.

INTERFAITH COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE MULTILATERALISM INHERENT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE STRUCTURAL AND OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS

Sponsor: Parliament of the World's Religions

Co-Sponsors: Parliament of the World's Religions; United Religions Initiative; Interfaith Center of New York; Temple of Understanding

JAPAN, ASIA AND BEYOND: HOW AN AD AGENCY, THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY, AND CIVIL SOCIETY ARE PROMOTING SDGS TO COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES

15:00 – 16:15 p.m. Conference Room 3, Conference Bld.

Sponsor: UNIC Tokyo

PARTNERSHIPS FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET: SHARING RESPONSIBILITY AND RESOURCES

15:00 – 16:15 p.m. Conference Room 4, Conference Bld.

Sponsor: NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY

Co-Sponsors: Global Access Partner, LLC; Style & Resilience PR; Humanity Helping Sudan Project; Mediators Beyond Borders International; Global Foundation for Democracy & Development; Global Family; Huairou Commission; Youth For a Better World: Montessori MUN; Peace Boat-US/NYO; Global Family for Love & Peace; The Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission; UNA-USA Council of Organizations & CoNGO

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS: GLOBAL STRATEGIES FOR CROSSING MULTI-GENERATIONAL AND CULTURAL BARRIERS

Sponsor: The International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants (CICIAMS)

Co-Sponsors: C-FAM UN ECOSOC NGO; Fertility Care Centers of Africa (Nigeria); National Association of Catholic Nurses – USA

THE VISION OF UNITED CIVILIZATIONS

Sponsor: Global Dialogue Foundation

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

15:00 – 16:15 p.m. Conference Room C, Conference Bld.

Sponsor: Nightingale Initiative for Global Health; NGO Committee on Education, Learning and Literacy

Co-Sponsors: International Council of Nurses, IVECA; NGO Committee on Education, Learning, and Literacy; Akshar Foundation, Kulen Outreach.



Closing Plenary Session

Closing Plenary Session

Thursday, 23 August 2018

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Conference Room 4

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Welcome

Ms. Winnie Byanyima, Chair, 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference & Executive Director, Oxfam International

Ms. Alison Smale, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications

Ms. Kim Quarles, Vice President, NGO/DPI Executive Committee

Civil Society Remarks

Mr. Edafe Okporo, NGO Youth Representative of Unitarian Universalists to the United Nations Department of Public Information

Ms. Rose Strauss, Representative, the Sunrise Movement

Ms. Venus Ilagan, Secretary-General, Rehabilitation International

Mr. Roberto Borrero (Taíno), International Mechanisms Director, US Human Rights Network

Ms. Frances Zainoeddin, Representative, International Federation on Ageing

Mr. Levi C. Bautista, President, Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations

Reading & Adoption of the “We the Future – A Youth Declaration,”

by members of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference Youth sub-committee

Reading & Adoption of “People-Centered Multilateralism: A Call to Action,”

by members of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference Outcome Document sub-committee

Performance: COBU

2019 Conference Announcement

Ms. Jackie Biskupski, Mayor, Salt Lake City, Utah

End



Summary of the Closing Plenary Session

This closing plenary session took place on Thursday, 23 August 2018, from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. It was moderated by **Ms. Winnie Byanyima**, Chair of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference, Executive Director, Oxfam International. Speakers included **Ms. Alison Smale**, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications; **Ms. Kim Quarles**, Vice President, NGO/DPI Executive Committee; **Mr. Edafe Okporo**, NGO Youth Representative to DPI, UUA; **Ms. Rose Strauss**, Representative, The Sunrise Movement; **Ms. Venus Ilagan**, Secretary General, Rehabilitation International; **Mr. Roberto Borrero**, Programs and Communications Coordinator, International Indian Treaty Council; **Ms. Frances Zainoeddin**, Representative, International Federation on Ageing; and a closing presentation by Japanese percussion performance group, **COBU**.

The closing plenary thanked all honorees, dignitaries, delegates, speakers, and participants who are working together to align humanitarianism and the goals of civil society to the agenda of the United Nations and its agencies. According to the speakers, this conference successfully called to action the obligatory need to continue to tear down institutional silos and foster increased multilateralism between all stakeholders, beneficiaries and others.

Topics of discussion included the continued demand to nurture and scale multilateral approaches to integrated solutions, to protect vulnerable populations, to ensure equality in the preservation of human rights, and to preserve justice in the enforcement of violations. Speakers also called for radical preservation and remediation of the environment, transparency of UN systems and governments, the successful transition of youth into leaders, and the continued push to find innovative means of increasing the quality of life for all, without cost to any groups or persons.

In her opening remarks, **Ms. Winnie Byanyima** welcomed back all participants and congratulated them on the ending of the conference. Ms. Byanyima especially thanked the members of the outcome document writing team who hardly slept the night before, carefully crafting the words for the conference's outcome document, "People-Centered Multilateralism: A Call to Action."

Ms. Alison Smale began her remarks by thanking Ms. Byanyima for her role as the Chair of the conference and deemed the conference a success. Ms. Smale specifically thanked the outcome document sub-committee for its hard work and her staff at the Department of Public Information for making the conference possible. Ms. Smale said she was particularly encouraged by the many youth-led activities at the Youth Hub and the young people who were actively engaged throughout the conference. Ms. Smale concluded by saying that this conference is unique as the only conference where the UN and civil society host together. She said she hoped the NGO representatives in attendance will "walk the talk" and put the outcome document into action.

Ms. Kim Quarles started her speech by stating words have no meaning without action.



With three words, “We the Peoples,” the United Nations entered into a contract with the people of the world to do its part in making the world a better place, she said. It is vital more than ever, she said, to put the words of the UN Charter into action. One of the main goals of the conference, from the NGO/DPI Executive Committee’s perspective, was to give NGOs the tools to be able to navigate the UN multilateral system and to give them a chance to make their voices heard on the global scale. NGOs must collaborate and work together more effectively to be able to achieve the 2030 Agenda, she said.

Mr. Edafe Okporo began his address by stating that he was speaking on behalf of displaced persons globally, on behalf of LGBTQ persons who face discrimination, and on behalf of the young persons who live in areas of conflict. He said he has spent his life proving he deserves a seat at the table, which unfortunately, he said, is the story of too many others, as less than half of asylum seekers are granted protection. “In 2018, no one should have to prove they deserve a seat at the table of humanity,” he said. Growing up in Nigeria, Mr. Okporo said there was no representation for West African LGBTQ persons, so he published a memoir of his experiences to help other West African gay men. He also created a YouTube channel to tell their stories, he said, so he would not have to see a young man like himself cross a border to seek freedom. Mr. Okporo wanted the participants to leave with a question: Why am I a part of this conference, and why am I supporting the Sustainable Development Goals? The solution, he said, is not to look at our diversity but to look at our intersectionality.

In her remarks, **Ms. Rose Strauss** said learning about the Holocaust is how the idea became instilled in her that people can never be silent. Silence is the same as permissibility, she said, and young people have inherited a fossil fuel world, one that is in a climate crisis. Thinking about climate change as a young person is almost paralyzing, she said, and, if



Mr. Edafe Okporo addresses the closing plenary session of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference.

Photo courtesy of DPI/NGO Relations



Ms. Rose Strauss addresses the conference participants during the closing plenary session of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference. *Photo courtesy of DPI/NGO Relations.*



nothing is done about it, billions of people's lives are at risk. Neutrality aids the oppressor, she said, and we must take sides, despite how overwhelming it may be. She said young people are unstoppable and are unafraid to stand up and speak out. Ms. Strauss gave her unwavering support for young people, saying she will fight tirelessly with them to ensure a better future for all. She said she hopes the conference participants are willing to join her.

Ms. Venus Ilagan started her remarks by stating it has been 10 years since the UN adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She said that reaching the 2030 Agenda and ensuring disabled persons are not left behind requires the help of the conference attendees and all those who actively engaging with the UN as members of civil society. No individual group can achieve its goals by working alone, she said. One of the greatest challenges in the inclusion of persons with disabilities, she said, is the lack of reliable data in the majority of the 177 countries who have ratified the disability convention. It is important to appreciate that disregarding persons with disabilities will harm the world's ability to achieve Agenda 2030, and she said we must speak with a unified voice to declare that we believe in multilateralism and in the UN's ability to achieve the goals we have created.

Mr. Roberto Borrero (Taíno) began by stating that while the US Human Rights Network was not directly an indigenous peoples' network, it partners directly with indigenous peoples in the United States. Most recently, the organization partnered with indigenous peoples for the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. He underlined this relationship because it shows the value of partnership and working together, he said. Next, Mr. Borrero told the story of indigenous leaders who were denied entry to the United Nations predecessor, the League of Nations. At this conference—

almost 100 years after the League of Nations—he said he remembers and honors those indigenous leaders, who came before us to find global solutions for global problems. In closing, Mr. Borrero said it is important to make it clear to those in power that they have far less to fear from those whose human rights are respected than those whose human rights are violated.



[Ms. Frances Zainoeddin speaks at the Closing Plenary Session.](#)

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Ms. Frances Zainoeddin began her address by taking a moment to pay tribute to NGOs for taking the time to work tirelessly to help those left furthest behind. She mentioned the persecution of the NGOs and their employees for simply doing their jobs and the dire need to reaffirm the value

of multilateralism. We need trust, transparency and accountability, she said, and one group should not be succeeding at the expense of another. “At what age is a person no longer of value to society?” she asked, while reminding the audience that older persons are integral in society and must be included in civil society discourse. She warned the participants about ageism and wondered aloud if the word “ageing” should be replaced by “longevity,” since older persons are healthier and more active than ever before. “I was young once and believed I could change the world,” Ms. Zainoeddin said. “I’m now 77 and still believe I can change the world.”

In his remarks, **Mr. Levi C. Bautista** said the Department of Public Information and ECOSOC-status NGOs share a common advocacy that NGO engagement at the UN is required for a robust and people-centered multilateral system. He commended the workshop organizers and participants for their work and devotion. With 70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Mr. Bautista advocated for a multilateral system that is based on human rights. In concluding his remarks, he praised the conference for envisioning how the multilateral system that we want and need can become a reality.

In farewell remarks predicated the reading of the outcome documents, **Ms. Winnie Byanyima** stated that she was energized and inspired by the dedication and enthusiasm shown by the conference participants. She said it was a similar feeling that she has when she visits communities with Oxfam International, empowering women and helping in humanitarian responses. She said we want a multilateral system that works for all of us, and she commended the participants for coming together to identify the problems and to work toward a better system for all. Governments will accept our call for a new multilateral system, she said, because we demand it, and they need it. Let’s empower each other, she said, and let’s lead the way toward the new order that we deserve.

The Youth Declaration, “We the Future — A Youth Declaration,” was then read by members of the youth planning sub-committee, who were its primary writers: Ms. Shermin Luo, Ms. Madison Ross, Mr. Alex Zheng, Ms. Anne Deng, and Ms. Saphira Rameshfar. The Youth Declaration (see page 73). The Youth Declaration was adopted by acclamation.

The final outcome document (see page 69), “People-Centered Multilateralism: A Call to Action,” was read by the members of the outcome document planning sub-committee, who were its primary writers: Mr. Steve Chiu, Mr. Brian Muzas, Ms. Mary Norton, and Ms. Roxane Heidrich. The outcome document was adopted by acclamation.



Mr. Levi C. Bautista speaks at the closing plenary session of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference. *Photo courtesy of DPI/NGO Relations.*



Following a powerful Japanese drum performance by **COBU**, **Ms. Jackie Biskupski**, the Mayor of Salt Lake City, Utah, took the stage and quipped that she will join COBU following her tenure as Mayor. Ms. Biskupski acknowledged Salt Lake City as a sanctuary city with no doors, akin to its formal archaic roots for refugee Mormons fleeing for sanctuary when Salt Lake City was still a part of Mexico. Mayor Biskupski proudly acknowledged the 68th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference will be held in Salt Lake City, the first US city outside of New York to ever host the event.

Following Mayor Jackie Biskupski's remarks, Conference Chair Ms. Winnie Byanyima officially declared the conference closed.

Rapporteur for this session: Mr. Mark J. Johnson



Mayor Jackie Biskupski looks at Mr. Steve Chiu, Youth Co-Chair of the UN DPI/NGO Conference as he reads from “People-Centered Multilateralism: A Call to Action” during the Closing Plenary Session of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference.

Photo courtesy of DPI/NGO Relations.

NGO-Led Third Day

This year's NGO/DPI Conference was held August 22-23. For most of us, UN DPI/NGO Conferences last for three days. For this reason, the NGO/DPI Executive Committee decided to organize and fund a third day which we called: 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference NGO-led Initiative – Networking Together to Address Global Issues.

During the August 22-23 conference, we learned about global problems which require all of us to work together to find global solutions. Our NGO/DPI Executive Committee decided to offer an August 24 event at Long Island University, Brooklyn, New York, to dig deeper into this topic and to provide networking opportunities. Over 350 conference participants registered for this August 24th event.

The highlights of the third day (August 24th) events were the communications workshop, which was an interactive session with top communications specialists (including actors) to teach and reinforce listening and communication skills. Conference participants were given challenges, such as describing 21st century mobile phone technology to someone from the 14th century without causing one's medieval interlocutor to think that one was engaging in the dark arts of black magic.

There were also workshops. The best was probably with the NGO/DPI Regional Representatives from around the world, who discussed the work they do to extend the work of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee to every corner of the globe. I do not remember a previous occasion when we have had as many of our Regional Representatives together in one room to discuss their work and brainstorm on improving it.

The audience was diverse, with people of many different backgrounds from all part of the globe, who brought various skills to the discussion of how to solve global problems together.

This was first time the NGO/DPI Executive Committee has hosted an additional day to a UN DPI/NGO Conference. I hope we can find another opportunity to host networking events in the coming years.

Bruce Knotts

Chair, NGO/DPI Executive Committee





Participants at the Social Media Hangout promoting the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference.

Photo courtesy of DPI NGO Relations.



Nyle DiMarco, American Model, Actor and Deaf Activist and Alison Smale, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications at the Conference Youth Hub promoting youth involvement with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). *Photo courtesy of DPI NGO Relations.*



NGO Relations Team with Jayathma Wickramanayake, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, after presenting the youth platform for the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference. *Photo courtesy of DPI NGO Relations.*

People-Centered Multilateralism: A Call to Action

“We the Peoples... Together Finding Global Solutions for Global Problems”

67th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference

UN Headquarters, New York

22-23 August 2018

In June of 2016 in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, We the Peoples¹ committed ourselves to “an ethos of global citizenship.”² In that spirit, We the Peoples, gathered here in New York for the 67th United Nations DPI NGO Conference, commit ourselves to foster *people-centered multilateralism* to address global challenges. It is a multilateralism pledged equally to uplift those whose human rights are most under threat and to protect our planet by living in harmony with nature, a multilateralism that shares responsibility and accountability among all stakeholders. The ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, driven by pressing transnational problems like climate change, demands the deeper and more equitable cooperation that we urge.

People-centered multilateralism requires expanding the role of civil society partnerships, especially with youth, to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since more than half of the world’s population is under 30 years old, young people are key partners in implementing the SDGs. Thus, on behalf of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) assembled here, we adopt this Call to Action to ensure that the 2030 Agenda leaves no one behind.

A Time to Reawaken International Cooperation

Each day at the United Nations, Member States affirm that it is only by reaching across divisions that we prosper together in a better, more peaceful world. At the United Nations, governments partner with civil society to defend human rights and advance sustainable development. Moreover, the United Nations has been a platform for activists, artists, entrepreneurs, and social movements that have shaped the world we live in. Billions of people have benefited from this cooperation.

However, far too many are being left behind. Violations of international norms by those with power, together with widening inequality, have caused some to doubt that the potential benefits of international cooperation can be realized. Since 1945, the

¹ Preamble, Charter of the United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/preamble/index.html>; Kofi Annan (author, 8 April 1938 – 18 August 2018) and Edward Mortimer (editor), *We the Peoples: A UN for the 21st Century* (Boulder: Routledge, 2014).

² Annex to the letter dated 11 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly: Action plan adopted at the sixty-sixth annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, “Gyeongju Action Plan,” A/70/980 (11 July 2016), <http://undocs.org/A/70/980>.



distribution of power in the world has shifted dramatically. Today, corporations, non-state armed groups, and transnational social movements influence the fate of billions.

The United Nations' legitimacy depends in part on its ability to build consensus in a world where state power has become more diffuse and where non-state actors play a substantial role.

When the current multilateral system falters, opportunists argue against the idea that cooperation helps everyone. In place of multilateralism, they cultivate a narrow nationalism that promises development for some at the expense of all others, especially the most vulnerable.

We the Peoples reject the false choice between nationalism and globalism. We offer people-centered multilateralism as an optimistic and realistic alternative. Its inclusive processes will foster a sense of shared ownership, build trust, and result in greater effectiveness. To bring people-centered multilateralism to maturity, we, as civil society, pledge to work side by side with governments, the private sector, and other stakeholders to pursue the SDGs. Therefore, civil society claims its unique space for action that transcends national identities and other affiliations.

A Time to Renew Civil Society Commitment

In order for people-centered multilateralism to take root, civil society must be able to carry out its critical work. However, every day, civil society representatives face threats to their physical safety and their rights to advocate. Our colleagues and friends are being arrested, abducted, and even murdered with impunity. Progress toward sustainable development requires a multilateral system that effectively safeguards non-governmental actors.

As civil society, we identify across the full spectrum of wealth, age, race, gender, sex, ability, power, religion, culture, and sexual orientation. We embrace our distinct identities, and we pledge to work together across our differences to guarantee that the benefits of development are shared equitably across generations, now and in the future.

Civil society is already contributing to equitable and sustainable development. After this conference, we intend to go further.

Therefore, as civil society, we commit:

- To embrace gender equity as an integral component of social justice,
- To operationalize the Global Compact on Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees by prioritizing the rights and dignity of forced migrants and people in fragile and conflict-affected states,
- To affirm the importance of international law and principles of cooperation,
- To share information and digital technology, media, and communication tools in a democratic manner to amplify the voices of those who are systematically marginalized and silenced,

- To act in solidarity with civil society representatives whose safety and rights are threatened,
- To empower and engage young people as partners to achieve the SDGs as outlined in the “‘We the Future’: Youth Declaration,”
- To build on economic and cultural innovations that strengthen social, economic, and environmental foundations of development, and
- To serve as independent sources of analysis, advocacy, and action to hold states, corporations, and other stakeholders accountable to the standards and values adopted in the 2030 Agenda.

A Time to Join with Civil Society

Cooperation and partnerships with Member States, the UN development system, and the private sector are needed on all levels to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Therefore, as civil society, we call upon

Member States to:

- Respect, protect, and promote the rights of civil society to hold public and private institutions accountable and to participate in decision making,
- Advance people-centered multilateralism by developing proposals to revitalize the United Nations on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary in 2020,
- Fulfill their obligations under international law,
- Honor and uphold the commitments made in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- Reaffirm the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders on its 20th anniversary by working to ensure the safety, expression, and freedom of association of those who speak out on abuses, and
- Enact policies aimed at eradicating extreme inequality, including by preventing individual and corporate tax avoidance and rights violations, with particular attention to the upcoming Special Session on Financing for Development;

Multinational corporations to:

- Adopt business models that shoulder social and environmental responsibility aligned with the SDGs and the Global Compact, and
- Deliver fair economic returns on value added by local communities;

The United Nations Secretary-General and the United Nations to:

- Play their historic roles as conveners of states and stakeholders, to guarantee that the most marginalized peoples throughout the world are heard most clearly and to ensure that our planet remains a place where all of humanity can flourish,



- Demand an end to tax avoidance, corruption, and rights violations by corporations, and
- Remain focused on intergenerational equity, safeguarding the planet's health and natural resources for generations to come;

All decision-makers to:

- Engage in real partnerships with civil society that, as called for by the “‘We the Future’: Youth Declaration,” enable vulnerable groups to shape policies that affect their lives, and
- Financially support and promote change-makers, regardless of age, in public policy decisions and to follow the example of innovative and powerful social movements.

Resolution

We can transform the international order to bring about a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world through people-centered multilateralism. We commit to support the successful repositioning of the United Nations system with our collaboration, passion, and creativity. People-centered multilateralism, through its worldwide institutions, culture, and work in a robust and protected civil society space, will generate the political and social support needed to endure for this generation and future generations.

Therefore, we who are gathered at the 67th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference commit to redouble our efforts to establish people-centered multilateral cooperation in a spirit of global citizenship. Beginning with the upcoming Paris Peace Forum in November of 2018, we encourage civil society representatives to meet again during future international conferences to assess progress under this Call to Action. We call upon states, corporations, institutions, and other collective and individual stakeholders to join our effort. By so doing, together we will further the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ensure that no one is left behind.

“We the Future” – A Youth Declaration

“We the Peoples... Together Finding Global Solutions for Global Problems”

67th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference
United Nations Headquarters New York
22 - 23 August 2018

Preamble

We, the young peoples of the world gathered at the 67th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference, join our voices and efforts to uphold the value of multilateralism and re-commit ourselves to seeking global solutions for global problems, including but not limited to, achieving the targets set forth in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Youth, with our unique capacities and vibrant energy, are propelling humanity’s movement towards a new future. Today, millions of families are still trapped in extreme poverty, struggling to access even basic resources like education, healthcare and employment. Today, a quarter of the world’s youth still live in the shadows of violent conflict, everything from wars to human trafficking to substance abuse threaten to steal the promise of our tomorrow. And, today, all on the planet earth are impacted by environmental degradation, communities of people and creatures are endangered by pollution, climate change, sea-level rising, and many other byproducts of human development. If we do not join in concerted action now, we may not have an earth to live on tomorrow.

The rising generations recognize that we must work collectively, across national, generational, and other real or fabricated boundaries, to shift the current paradigm and create new global and multilateral structures, to weave a new tapestry of economic, technological, environmental and social life that can drive humanity’s evolution towards collective prosperity. We have power in numbers, and, when united, can demand immense change. We the Youth are taking the lead and contributing our expertise, energy, experience, passion, and creativity in implementing global solutions. It is in this spirit that we set forth this Declaration of our shared visions, commitments, and recommendations.

Visions

We the Youth are united in our vision for a peaceful and sustainable world. Together we affirm that:

1. Global problems are beyond the power of any single entity to tackle; partnerships are essential to create and facilitate lasting change.



Multilateralism is more than partnership by multiple entities, but rather inclusive collaboration of states and non-state actors. We need to implement the new collaborative model, as described in “People-Centered Multilateralism: A Call to Action”, recognizing and respecting all peoples’ right to participate, especially those who have been traditionally underrepresented.

2. We will continue to work together and undertake sustainable actions that can benefit all of humanity; we will continue to work towards ending conflict, countering violence and building sustainable and lasting peace.
3. We share responsibility for our planet, strive to live in harmony with nature, and must work to minimize the human-made effects of climate change.
4. We must create economic systems that can provide for the well-being of all, ensuring that development does not take precedence over the health of people and the planet.
5. We are one in our humanity, with natural and inalienable human rights, including the right to determine our future; civic participation must also be a right ensured to all.
6. We work to remove all forms of discrimination against sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status, religion, physical appearance, political affiliation, other-abled individuals, which are all counterproductive to progress
7. We must be included in decision-making at all levels of political processes and structured mechanisms for youth participation must be incorporated into all public institutions.

Commitments

We pledge to commit our abilities, efforts, and heart to:

1. Increase awareness of and work persistently towards the accomplishment of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, their corresponding targets, and the commitments set forth in the Gyeongju Youth Declaration.
2. Become active global citizens supporting our peers across their spectrum of needs, from ending poverty in all dimensions, supporting women and girls, to quests for public office and other leadership positions in service of the community. We also proactively demand space for youth in all public fora.
3. Become more conscious of the effects of our own consumption activities and make responsible decisions in our daily lives that can help in achieving Agenda 2030.
4. Increase awareness of and advocate for human rights in our work, honor all life with respect, and join together to fight the injustices committed against youth across the world.



5. Contribute to the repositioning of the UN Development System and improvement of other international bodies, making them more progressive, fair, sustainable, effective, youth-friendly, and shouldering our share of the responsibility in shaping the future of our world.
6. Serve as open partners, sharing our technology, information, knowledge and skills with those who can benefit from them and creating opportunities for intergenerational partnerships, learning from friends and spreading best practices.
7. Help create safe spaces of expression for those who are left out of the existing political system, including but not limited to residents of conflict-ridden areas, migrants, displaced people, refugees, stateless people, and other groups in vulnerable situations.
8. Draw on our advantageous position as youth to facilitate peacebuilding, reconciliation, and the cultivation of new communities.

Recommendations

Fully understanding that, in order to achieve a paradigm shift, we need more than just personal action. By resonating the hopes of youth around the world, we, with a unified voice, call upon:

1. **States and other entities committed in multilateral agreements** to deliver their promises and to be trustworthy partners to ensure stability in the rules-based international order.
2. **State and non-state actors** to augment diversity and inclusion across all spectra in their decision-making process, ensuring that those most impacted are part of the deliberations, understanding that superficial tokenism does not foster true partnership.
3. **States** to ensure access to quality and culturally-relevant education for all, reaching even the most vulnerable communities, providing the materials and knowledge to cultivate independent learners.
4. **States** to integrate Agenda 2030 into all facets of their education curricula, considering informal, non-formal, experiential, service-based and interdisciplinary education as emphasized elements of the learning experience.
5. **States** to consciously design their education systems to enhance global citizenship by fostering inclusivity, developing leadership, and encouraging innovation and creativity in youth.
6. **States** to address youth unemployment as a priority by investing in workforce development, creating green jobs, internships, and apprenticeships, supporting entrepreneurship; and to implement effective workplace policies to protect youth from exploitation.



7. **Everyone** to respect youth as equal partners in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
8. **Everyone** to consider environmental consequences, including those affecting life on land, life below water, and the global climate, and to prioritize the use of renewable energy and technology.
9. **Governments** to increase financial resources for public health concerns, such as mental health and wellness, drug use and addictions, family planning, wireless radiation, reducing cancer risk amongst the youth, and the global obesity epidemic.
10. **All levels of government** to dedicate time, space, and resources to develop localized plans that achieve the targets of the SDGs.

Reflections on the Youth Declaration

With over 40 percent of the Conference registrants being youth, the Youth Subcommittee, along with the rest of the Conference Planning Committee, wanted to ensure a strong youth voice in the outcomes of the Conference. Building on the momentum created by the Gyeongju Youth Declaration at 2016's Conference, the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference not only had a main outcomes document, but was also accompanied by a youth declaration, both of which were officially adopted by acclamation at the closing ceremony of the Conference. This package of a Conference outcomes document and youth declaration ensured that the unique perspectives and contributions of youth from around the world on the need for multilateralism were accurately captured. Since more than half of the world's population is under 30 years old, young people are key partners in implementing the SDGs and we hope this declaration can serve both as the aspirations of youth conference participants and as a road map of 'next steps' to ensure the work continues beyond this conference, galvanizing youth worldwide to take action to ensure a more just and equitable future for all.

"We the Future — A Youth Declaration" consolidates visions, commitments and recommendations set forth by youth around the world through a multiple consultations process. To ensure the document captures the voice of the youth who need to be heard, the youth subcommittee surveyed youth on their interests in issue areas surrounding the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant recommendations through various platforms, including the NGO Youth Representatives' social media platform, the Secretary-General's Youth Envoy Office, emails and in-person surveys. The survey effort took place two months before the Conference began over the course of several weeks, to ensure that the document was representative of youth from around the world. During the week of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference, the Youth Subcommittee held multiple Townhall sessions online and in-person for youth participants to contribute their experience, expertise and perspectives to the final document.

On the evening of the first day of the Conference, the Youth Subcommittee and representatives from the NGO Youth Representatives Steering Committee gathered together to negotiate the final youth declaration document, which incorporated the online survey results, feedback submitted through online forms, townhall outcomes and in-person surveys during the conference. The Youth Subcommittee is confident that the reconciliation document best represents voices of youth around the world, our visions for multilateralism and our commitment to working toward these goals.



Youth Participation

The final conference outcome document was like no other, for it included two elements: the “Outcome Document - People-Centered Multilateralism: A Call to Action” and the “We the Future: Youth Declaration.” This was a first-ever outcome document to be presented at the United Nations packaged with a Youth Declaration, recognizing the significance of involving youth as equal members in multilateralism in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

This outcome document urges all members to work together in acknowledgement and respect of a people-centered community in order to solve world problems. “We the Future: Youth Declaration,” encourages the global community to shift perspective, allowing new global and multilateral structures and recognizing rising generations as the general workforce in implementing the SDGs. Such visions, commitments, and recommendations consist of minimizing the human-made effects of climate change; contributing to the repositioning of the UN Development System and improvement of other international bodies, making them more progressive, fair, sustainable, effective, youth-friendly, and shouldering our share of the responsibility in shaping the future of our world; and integrating Agenda 2030 into all facets of their education curricula, considering informal, non-formal, experiential, service-based and interdisciplinary education as emphasized elements of the learning experience.

Over one-third of participants at the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference were youth and young people played a leadership role in planning this conference as well as molding



Youth Participants and Members of the NGO Youth Steering Committee following the press conference at the end of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference. *Photo courtesy of the DPI NGO Relations*

new structure in achieving sustainable development. Youth delegates participated in several consultative activities which resulted in a Youth Declaration and allowed their voice to be represented in the final outcome document. Activities ranged from hosting two Youth Caucuses and four Youth Hub Sessions to a Youth-Led Workshop and Film Series.

At the first Youth Caucus, “We The Youth...,” Youth Sub-Committee Co-Chair **Madison Ross** opened with remarks and appreciation to young leaders, expressing the importance of youth representation at the conference. She then introduced Hip-Hop Dance Conservatory Co-Found **Yvonne H. Chow** to do a *morning Wake Up Call* with dance and letting loose for a strengthening few days ahead. Following was **Ms. Hawa Diallo**, United Nations Public Information Officer and youth mentor, who served as the Department of Public Information focal point for conference youth activities. She introduced Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications **Ms. Alison Smale**, who spoke about the many youth-led activities and the numerous young people who were leading discussions about important topics throughout the conference. “Young people at this conference have proved to us that the future is not tomorrow, it is now and the youth are playing their part,” she said. After her remarks Deaf Activist, Model and Actor **Mr. Nyle DiMarco** spoke about the importance of representation in order to reduce inequalities. Youth Sub-Committee Member Alex Zheng and Outcome Document Sub-Committee Co-Chair Steve Chiu continued, giving an overview of the Youth Declaration as it was in draft.

At the second Youth Caucus, “Youth and Multilateralism,” Youth Sub-Committee Co-Chair **Shermin Luo** had opening remarks regarding youth’s position in multilateralism and why it should be taken more seriously. It followed with once again Hip-Hop Dance Conservatory Co-Found **Yvonne H. Chow** to do a *morning Wake Up Call* with dance. Director of the Outreach Division for DPI **Mr. Maher Nasser** spoke after about the importance of women and girls being considered in Multilateralism, resonating most with SDG 5: achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls. Following his remarks was Executive Director of Oxfam International and Chair of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference **Ms. Winnie Byanyima** who stressed the importance to women and girl empowerment as well along with call-to-action to help those in extreme poverty and financial instabilities. This relates most to SDG 1 and 10: ending poverty in all its forms everywhere and reducing inequality within and among countries. And last but not least to speak at the second Youth Caucus was Model and Social Entrepreneur **Ms. Toya Montoya** who expressed her love in protecting the environment and taking action for climate in relation to SDG 12: taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Following suit in explaining how youth can get more involved, DPI/NGO Youth Representative Steering Committee Co-Chairs **Subhajit Saha** and **Jadayah Spencer** called for youth participations in all realms of sustainable development and the Youth Representative program itself. To close, Youth Sub-Committee Co-Chairs **Madison Ross** and **Shermin Luo** expressed gratitude to all young leaders taking action as well as the need for youth to be taken seriously in all global matters in order for the Global Goals to reach its full potential in solving world problems.





Participants of the Youth Hub session during the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference.

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Ms. Annie Deng, member of the Youth Sub-committee reading from “We the Future: Youth Declaration” at the Closing Plenary of the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference.

Photo courtesy of DPI/NGO Relations

When the Youth Caucuses were not in session, the Youth Hub was available daily for networking and special sessions. The Youth Hub was successful in welcoming guests and engaging conference participants (both young people and older generations) in live music, panel discussions, youth leadership spotlights and more. During the day, conference participants would drop in and actively engage in networking sessions. In the afternoon, the hub was a venue for both live musical performances and discussions regarding underrepresented sectors, career paths, intergenerational dialogue, and gender equality.

The Youth Hub was developed and successfully run by the Conference Youth Sub-Committee and NGO Youth Steering Committee members representing youth organizations and NGOs from Bangladesh, Canada, China, Germany, India, Italy, Pakistan, and the United States. The Youth Hub was also decorated with artwork and videos curated by young leaders from all over the world, promoting the Sustainable Development Goals in their own local communities.

Throughout the conference, youth spearheaded activities that highlighted challenges faced by young people and the potential for impact when the Organization

From left to right:
 Mr. Edafe Okporo,
 Ms. Shermin
 Luo, Ms. Winnie
 Byanyima, Ms.
 Madison Ross,
 Mr. Maher Nasser,
 and Ms. Toya
 Montoya, pose
 for a photo with
 the Sustainable
 Development
 Goals following
 their event in the
 Youth Hub.

*Photo courtesy of
 DPI NGO Relations.*



engages youth in an effective way. A youth-led workshop, “A Young Activist’s Toolkit for Advancing the SDGs,” examined the challenges faced by implementers of youth-led initiatives and demonstrate that, in spite of difficulties, real change is possible; as well as highlighted key approaches associated with the UN’s Global Citizenship Education (GCED) that emphasize respect for all and support for learners becoming responsible and active global citizens. The first-ever NGO Youth regional workshop was held bringing together voices from all corners of the world to share ideas and discuss ways to deepen the department’s reach and engagement with young people.

Inspired by the youth delegates of the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference and their work to encourage youth participation, the Youth Sub-Committee of the 67th UN DPI/NGO wanted continue such efforts, recognizing young leaders and their hard work, stressing the high need of accommodation to the changing world of employment and financial stability, and supporting reform of all levels of government to dedicate time, space, and resources to develop localized plans that achieve the targets of the SDGs. “Integrating young people into formal structures of power is of course advantageous for a variety of reasons, particularly because youth bring a fresh perspective, innovative solutions, creativity, enthusiasm, open mindedness and a spirit of service to these spaces,” (The Gyeongju Youth Declaration, 2016).

While the Sustainable Development Goals are running behind in being achieved by 2030, young people at the conference and around the world are stepping up to play as active members in multilateralism. In the “We the Future: Youth Declaration,” youth delegates listed a range of visions, commitments, and recommendations for them and other sectors can take to drive change and implementation.



Youth Journalists Blog Articles

Public-Private Partnerships to Implement the SDGs

— *Sheryl Steadman*

The workshop on “Public Private Partnerships to Implement the SDGs” included panelists from diverse organizations that see the value in the United Nations, the NGOs and civil society expanding and engaging in more opportunities with the private sector to expound upon the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

One of the panelists, Ambassador Henry MacDonald of Suriname, made the case that because of the interconnectivity of the world and because many organizations don’t have the necessary resources and funding to implement many of the valuable solutions to issues — more public private partnerships are necessary. It was agreed that many companies are already working with NGOs and civil society in multilateral engagements as a result of corporations having the ability to replicate and scale ideas and projects quickly to fit the need of society.

During the session, attendees discussed the reluctance with many organizations not wanting to establish relationships with corporations — one big concern is that of possible corruption. This has the potential to happen more often in developing countries when there is limited competitiveness between corporations. Another resonating point of consensus is that for there to be a successful partnership, there must be trust between the two parties. The conversation also included the obligation of companies to take seriously its ‘corporate social responsibility’ and be accountable to all stakeholders.

There was similar discussion that took place in the “Partnerships for People and Planet” workshop that talked about partnerships with corporations from a grassroots perspective. There were several entrepreneurs that participated in the discussion that shared experiences with partnering locally, specifically Global Access Partners, LLC.

During that discussion, the panelists agreed that attendees should consider:

- More effort to partner at the grassroots level because it might facilitate the process of getting the assistance to the people in dire need
- The grassroots partnerships as a relationship where you learn from each other and build upon the connection

Because as panelist Kehkashan Basu from this panel discussion stated, “our planet’s diversity is our strength”.

Youth Empowerment — Changing a Mindset

— *Valentina Gaviria*

Youth empowerment was the theme of the workshop “Youth: Today’s leaders” that took place Thursday August 23, 2018. Panelists discussed the importance of empowering youth and developing their leadership skills through frameworks and practical approaches.

Brittany Thompson, the Youth program Coordinator of Agents for Change Movement explained that her organization is dedicated to empowering individuals to initiate global transformations that impact the world. By developing, mentoring and empowering individuals they guide them to discover who they are and what their passions are. By developing, mentoring and empowering them, their members are able to start their own change. She defined empowering as taking the power that individuals already have within themselves and increasing it to the maximum potential. She explained that to empower it’s crucial to recognize that individuals already have great power within themselves but it needs to be discovered and cultivated. She explained that Agents For Change Movement is dedicated to guiding their members through the journey of self-discovery to help them become leaders of change that can make long lasting impacts for generations to come. “Because, through guidance and self-discovery we begin to recognize who we are as leaders and it isn’t until we know who we are that we can become leaders of change.” Thompson emphasized self-discovery as crucial to becoming a leader because true leaders know who they are and then are able to lead through their passions.

Panelist, Destry Wilborn founder and director of Men of Purpose—the journey to Self-Discovery, explained that his program provides mentoring services and coaching sessions for young men dealing with drugs and alcohol abuse as well as peer pressure and low self-esteem. He dedicates his time to empower young men from Chicago to build a positive self-image through overcoming their self-limiting beliefs. The program’s objective is to teach, train and develop men to become leaders and have a positive view of themselves and their lives. Wilborn explained that he does so through creating strong bonds with the young men in order to tackle their inner and most profound scars. He believes the major causes of crimes that people commit are because of unresolved pain. He states: “if we are not dealing with the root causes of people’s pain we will never be able to address the real problems. We need to focus more on the youth’s pain than about the problem they cause. He stated that he is determined to deal with youth’s pain and that his real concern is their hearts and changing their mindsets. He closed by saying “If I can change their minds everything else will follow.”

Panelist, Adebimpe Bamgbose-Martins, is the founder of S.M.I.L.E’s Young leaders mentoring program. This program is located in Nigeria and was created in



2011. She explained that her organization “S.M.I.L.E” is a leadership empowering and mentoring program designed to develop the social and leadership capacities of high school students and to maximize their potentials. She said that the organization’s goal is to inspire and equip the youth, especially those with fewer opportunities to grow and develop, to become agents of change through programs and mentorship. The programs consist of activities that help develop leaders of today. The activities consist on self-discovery and addressing the misconceptions that individuals have towards leadership such as that they can’t be leaders. Adebimpe explained that leadership misconceptions and changing individuals’ mindset is one of their biggest challenges. She explained ways in which she deals with the challenge of changing individual’s mindsets. She is determined to show them the power they have within themselves through self-discovery: by introducing them to who they are. Once they know they are capable, once they know the great strength that is within them they start becoming leaders that act upon what is in their hearts. She said that leadership is for all it’s a matter of acting. “Leaders are result oriented and are always looking to improve society.” She closed by quoting John Quincy Adams “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader”.



Attendees and Panelists from the workshop entitled “Youth- Today’s Leaders.”

Photo courtesy of Ms. Valentina Gaviria.

MEDIA REPORT

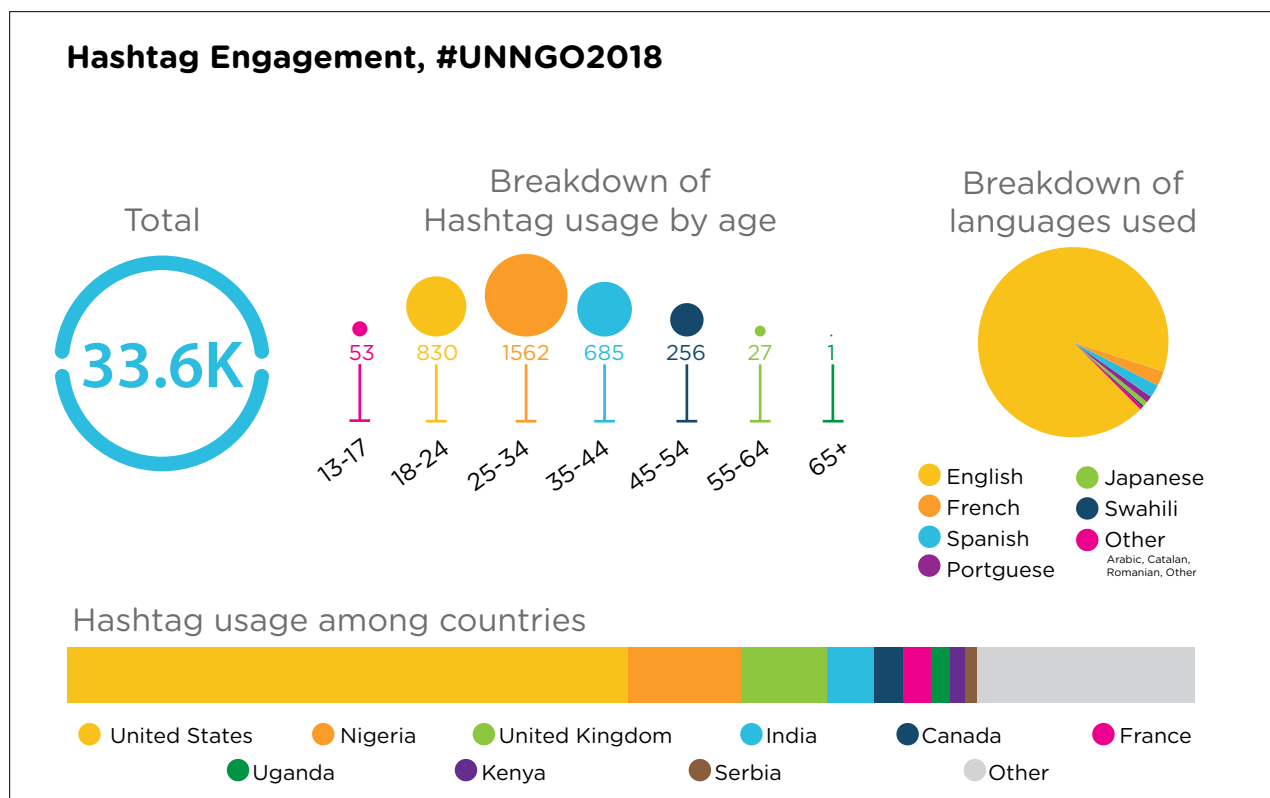
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67th UN DPI/NGO Conference Exhibits

Exhibits:

1. Fordham University (USA) — Gender base violence in South East Asia (Cambodia, Thailand)
2. Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (USA) — SOGI Asylum Seekers: The Need for a Multilateral Approach
3. UUSC: Unitarian Universalist Service Committee/ Shared Humanity(USA) — Light and Shadow: 20 minutes film screening about the Massive Refugee Crisis
4. Rutgers Preparatory School (USA) — Virtual Reality tools for NGOs
5. 67th UN DPI/NGO Youth Sub-Committee (USA) — Youth Activists and the SDGs (Youth Hub events)
6. Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation (Taiwan) — Importance of Global Partnership
7. Asociación Mujeres Unidas para el Microcrédito: women together USA (Spain) — Products handmade by artisans of latin american countries where Women Together carries out its mission
8. Shri Ram Chandra Mission (India) — Mobilizing Youth to Build a More Peaceful, and Sustainable Planet
9. Buddha's Light International Association (China) — Shared Planet & Shared Prosperity
10. The DeltaKappa Gamma Society International/ Committee on Teaching About the United Nations: CTAUN (USA) — Linking Educators to the UN's policies and the 2030 Agenda
11. The Ribbon International (USA) — Tangible Hope / Peace for All People
12. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (USA) — A Sisterhood Called to Service
13. ECPAT-USA (USA) — Anti-trafficking resources for hotels
14. Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (India) — The Strength of An Inspired Human Spirit
15. CGFNS International, Inc. (USA) — The role of nurses in advancing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact
16. Care Queen & King Foundation Global Family Network (India) — BANGLADESHI NAKSHI KANTHA
17. The World Peace Prayer Society (Japan/ International) — Peace Pals : Youth In Action
18. Soka Gakkai International (Japan) — Seeds of Hope: Visions of sustainability, steps toward change
19. Association of World Citizens (USA) — Transforming the World Today : The power of Individuals' Conscience
20. The Institute for Multicultural Communications, Cooperation and Development, Inc. (IF-MC-CA-DI) (USA- Puerto Rico) — How Debt and Hurricane Maria created a Humanitarian Crisis in Puerto Rico
21. Global Peace Foundation (USA) — An innovative approach, Global solutions to Global Problems through Global Vision



Selection of Exhibition Photographs

Photos courtesy of DPI NGO Relations and Mr. Isaac Humphrie



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New York Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violence

ShanShui JiaFeng International Cultural Exchange (BJ) Center

Christina Fan

World Development Foundation

Jeffrey Huffines

CIVICUS

Sherrill Kazan Alvarez de Toledo

World Council of Peoples for the United Nations

Bruce Knotts

Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office

Bette Levy

Soroptimist International

Elisabeth Shuman

Association for Childhood Education International

Richard Yep

American Counseling Association

Debra Boudreaux

Bernice Leber

Brian Muzas

Barbara Burns

Judy Lerner

Mary Norton

Scott Carlin

Samantha Lu

Kim Quarles

Isaac Humphrie

Fannie Munlin

Janet Stovin

William Hunter

Minnie Murthy

Robert Uwen

PERFORMERS

Ms. Yafrieci Peralta

Ms. Mijori Goodwin

COBU

The United Vocal Music Group, Inc.

New York Chinese Harp Music Center

The Hip-Hop Dance Conservatory

Move to Empower

The Naadam Cashmere Sustainable Fashion Presentation by Nomi Ganbold



LOOKING AHEAD: #UNCSC2019



“As a city committed to being inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, it is an honor to be the first U.S. host city of the UN-DPI NGO Conference outside of New York. I can think of no better time and no better place than Salt Lake City, for the UN and the world’s NGOs to expand awareness in this country of sustainable development goals and the value of global unity. For the last two and a half years Salt Lake City has been focused on promoting economic opportunities for all people, ensuring the capitol city is a resilient place with diverse housing options for people to live, and public transportation to get around. And of course, we have lead the state in our sustainability efforts moving Salt Lake City toward a clean energy future to help clear our air and reduce our carbon emissions. These goals are in line with the United Nations, which are focused on building stronger, clear, and more equitable cities for all people.”



— *Salt Lake City Mayor, Jackie Biskupski*

Jackie Biskupski led a delegation which announced that the 68th United Nations Department of Public Information Non-Governmental Organizations (UN DPI/NGO) Conference in 2019. The delegation from Utah included Derek Miller, President of Salt Lake Chamber; Baldomero S. Lago, Chief International Officer for UVU; Anne Burkholder,



CEO YWCA and other high-level members within Utah’s community. The delegation represents the diversity, opportunities and interests that Salt Lake City has to offer. Salt Lake City is known as being the “Crossroads of the West” and aims to soon be the “Crossroads of the world.” The City is further known for its innovation, technology, revitalization, and community vibrancy. And Salt Lake City is a small, tight-knit, business-friendly community with a global footprint. The 68th UN DPI/NGO Conference aims to focus on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #11 — Sustainable Cities and Communities. Sustainable Development Goal #11, to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable is also a goal of Mayor Biskupski and Salt Lake City. The city aims to be a city for all and through both the 68th UN DPI/NGO Conference and SDG #11 Salt Lake is working toward providing jobs, a positive economy, housing, sustainability, and arts and culture for all. The United Nations and the Salt Lake City delegation look forward to seeing you all at the 68th UN DPI/NGO Conference 26-28 August 2019



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<https://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/67th-dpingo-conference>

NGO Relations Unit, Outreach Division,
Department of Public Information, United Nations

The Department of Public Information (DPI) and civil society organizations cooperate regularly. Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) associated with DPI disseminate information about the United Nations to their membership, thereby building knowledge of and support for the Organization at the grassroots level. This dissemination includes, publicizing UN activities around the world on such issues as peace and security, economic and social development, human rights, humanitarian affairs and international law. Additionally, they promote UN observances and international years established by the General Assembly to focus world attention on important issues facing humanity.

The NGO Relations Unit within the Department of Public Information at the United Nations is the link with approximately 1,450 NGOs who are associated with the Department of Public Information and support the efforts of the United Nations to disseminate information on the priority issues on its agenda, including sustainable development, creating a safer and more secure world, human rights, helping countries in transition, empowering women and young people, and addressing poverty, among others.

Inquiries on the work of DPI and the NGO Relations Unit should be addressed to
undpingo@un.org



United Nations, Department of Public Information
Outreach Division, NGO Relations

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